



SOCCER ACTION

JUGOSLOVENSKA
SCENA:15

VIVA ITALIA:14

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ
ΣΕΛΙΣ:15

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Zinni key for Juve

Flying forward Andrew Zinni is receiving daily treatment as Brunswick-Juventus prepares for the Southern Division grand final on Sunday.

Its opponent will be either Makedonia or Hellas, which meet in the preliminary final at Olympic Park tonight (Wednesday) at 7.30 pm.

Juventus needs Zinni to offset the loss of Peter Lewis and John Dowie who both are suspended for Sunday's grand final.

Similarly, Hellas has lost Gary McDowell (suspended and injured) and John Yzendoorn (injured) for tonight's match against Makedonia.

In the Northern Division, Sydney Hakoah is back at full strength after the return of John Kosmina. Its opponent in the grand final on Sunday will be either Marconi or Sydney Croatia.

Although apprehensive about Juventus's chances on Sunday without Dowie and Brown who were faultless against Hellas last Sunday, coach John Margaritis said:

"We deserve to represent Victoria in the national final. We've got the record on the board, having beaten Hellas twice this year, and also having beaten the other top teams. It will be hard, though, without Brown and Dowie. The defence is the strong point of our team, and now we've had the heart ripped out of it."

By LAURIE SCHWAB

"Everything now depends on Zinni getting over his injury. With Zinni back in the team, we can catch it up."

"He would go into attack. Robbie Gullen would drop back into midfield, and perhaps Mike Petersen would play as sweeper."

Zinni, who scored in the semi-final victory over Heidelberg-Alexander, is having daily ultra-sound treatment for torn ligaments in his thigh.

"I'm also on tablets to bring down the swelling, so I'm really hoping it will clear up by Sunday," Zinni said.

The Juventus players have been promised a trip to Italy — for a possible match against Juventus of Turin — as incentive to win the national championship.

Club president Tony Schiavello has a group of Italian businessmen willing to sponsor the trip.

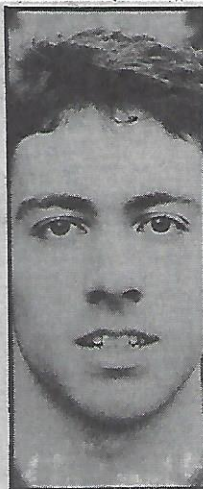
Makedonia hopes to have Gary Cole back after injury for tonight's match against Hellas.

The team that enters the finals in fifth place — whatever sport it may be — is considered to have no hope of landing the championship. Makedonia is on course to disprove that theory.

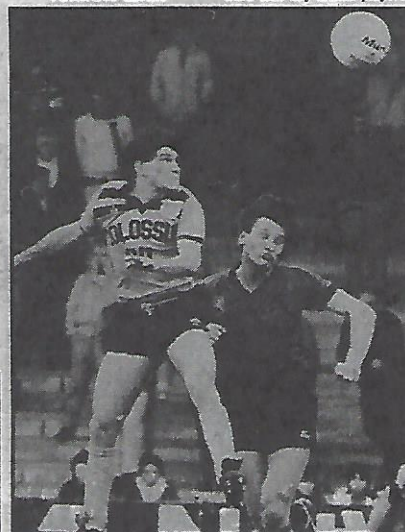
McDowell confirmed he would be missing from the team tonight. "I tore a calf muscle in the first half and I really should have let John Kanesoulis come on earlier. I tried to run it off, but it didn't work."

"What's more, I'm also suspended because I was shown the yellow card."

McDowell said Manny Anezakis probably would play as sweeper, and Vlado Bozinovski would take a midfield position.



Andrew Zinni



• Peter Tsolakis (left) of Heidelberg — Alexander and George Petrov of Makedonia received praise from Soccercoo coach Frank Arok for their semi-final performances. See page 2. Picture: LES SHORROCK

Press selection to tackle Soccercoos

Frank Arok's Soccercoos will play against an all-star team chosen by the Victorian Press at Middle Park on Sunday, September 15.

It will be the last practice match for the Soccercoos before they leave for New Zealand two days later.

They meet the Kiwis in their first World Cup qualifying match in Auckland on September 21.

"I desperately need that last game to get the team ready," Arok said this week, "and by having the Press choose our opposition, we will be assured of a tough game."

"I hope everyone co-operates to make this a great success. It should become an annual event."

Hellas president Jim Diamataris immediately agreed to make available Middle Park, and gave his word that any Hellas players

chosen for the Press team would be made available by the club.

Members of the Victorian branch of the Australian Soccer Press Association, comprising soccer writers and broadcasters, will choose the Press team.

Players in the running obviously include: Ian McKie, Steve Marley, Stuart Stevenson, Theo Selenidis (Heidelberg), Charlie Egan, Doug Brown, Gary McDowell, Bobby Russell, Steve Blair (SV-Hellas), Dave McIntosh, Josip Biskic, Drago Deankovic, Steve Gojevic (Croatia), Yanka Banovic, Andrew Zinni, Peter Lewis, Paul Wade, Richard Miranda (Juventus), Claude Lucchesi, Tommy Cumming (Green Gully), Tom Karic, Zdravko Lujic, Kyri Kyriakoulis, (J.U.S.T.), George McMillan, Zoran Husek, Gary Cole, Sean Lane (Makedonia), Tyrone James, Ossie Latif, Lou Kastner, Chris Taylor (George Cross).

A possible line-up, keeping in mind we'd have to combat Arok's preferred formation would be:

Yanka Banovic — Gary McDowell — Tyrone James, Steve Blair — Ian McKie, Josip Biskic, Tom Karic, Chris Taylor — Charlie Egan, Sean Lane, Andrew Zinni.

The match will be heavily publicised in the English and foreign language media, on TV and radio.

Arok's Soccercoos go into camp in Sydney on September 2, and the players will be released for the two legs of the national final on September 4 and 8.

On September 11, the Soccercoos will play against Dez Marton's eleven in a testimonial match for Marton at St. George Stadium, and they will move to Melbourne on September 13.

The match against the Press all-stars will follow two days later.

Alan Davidson is expected to join from England just in time to leave with the squad for Auckland.

Eddie Krncevic however, is now in doubt. Arok told him he wanted him here at least 10 days before the first match,

but apparently he can't get enough time off from his Belgian club, Cercle Bruges.

Arok wants more than a basic World Cup squad for the coming campaign, because he has to field additional teams against China on September 23 in Canberra and September 25, probably in Sydney, although that game originally was scheduled for Newcastle.

The full national team will play in the third match against China, in Brisbane on September 27, but only reserves will take part in the other two games.

The Soccercoos return from Auckland on September 22.

The next World Cup games will be: October 10: v Israel in Tel Aviv, October 20: v Israel in Melbourne, October 23: v Taiwan in Adelaide, October 27: v Taiwan in Hobart, November 3: v New Zealand in Melbourne or Sydney.

If they win the Oceania group, the Soccercoos will play home and away against Spain, Scotland or Wales for a spot among the 24 finalists in Mexico next year.

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CEDO CIRKOVIC

'I'll quit'-Margaritis

Juventus coach John Margaritis has added his voice to the call for a 14-team National League.

National coach Frank Arok backed the concept last week.

Margaritis said: "If the NSL competition remains the same next year, I might not coach. I might go to Greece or England and have a year off. I would not be keen enough. If the format does change, I'll stay, of course. My contract with Juventus runs out at the end of the year, but there's no reason to leave the club if we have a workable league."

"I want to see six teams for Melbourne, six from Sydney and maybe two from Adelaide."

"Also, the federation should stop minor teams playing on Sundays, in opposition to NSL games. Count up all the Greek and Italian fans who go to minor games on Sunday, and put them all into Olympic



John Margaritis

Park or Middle Park for Juventus or Hellas matches, and you'd be sure of getting good crowds."

"If we had a 14-team league, and Hellas played in Sydney, while Juventus played at home, say, Marconi, we'd get some of the Greeks to watch us, which also would help."

"The way it is now, we are going backwards."

Austrian international striker Hans Krankl was offered to Juventus as a guest player earlier this year, but the club

didn't take him. Under a different league format, however, Juventus would sign a big-name guest star, Margaritis said.

If the current format is retained, clubs will have to cut players' wages and make up for dwindling gate takings, he added.

"For less money, the player's won't do the same work and they won't maintain as high a standard. All of soccer then would go down."

Despite the strong push for a 14-team league, however, a series of State-based super leagues appears politically more likely. The ASF would resist moves to dump the Brisbane clubs, but would not object to a super league being established in each State, with national play-offs at the end.

But if enough clubs are willing, and financially able to compete in a 14-team elite national league, politics should not be allowed to prevent them from doing so.

— LAURIE SCHWAB



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SAINTS HIT BACK

Although its season came to an abrupt end against Sydney Olympic in last week's elimination semi-final of the NSL Northern Division, St George Budapest made what must be the comeback of 1985.

Just a couple of months ago the NSL's co-founders — together with Hakoh — were stering the spectre of relegation in the face. Nothing seemed to be going right for the famous Hungarian club, goals were few and far between, silly points were dropped, many at home.

As is the way of football fans the world over, grumbles grew about many aspects of the team and its activities. The alleged lack of application by some of the players, rumors of indiscretions in the squad and even chagrin over what some saw as a conflict of interest involved in Frank Ark's dual role as coach of the Saints and the Soccerbros.

Then, quite suddenly, it all turned around. Goals started to come and a steady move up the competition ladder became apparent. Under threat of imminent return to Abillon, British guest import Morgan also started to produce the goods. And the worries of the supporters were put to rest by Ark's declaration that if he was faced by a choice between the two — the Saints would be put ahead of the Soccerbros, underlined by affixing his name to a new contract.

Although it had to wait for the very last round, the climb into the top five playoffs was a natural outcome of St George Budapest's new found vitality. With a squad that is recognisably deficient in a number of areas, this was a marvellous climax to the season.

The arrival of a number of imports from Yugoslavia is expected to beef up the squad considerably in 1986. In the meantime, quiet satisfaction, tinged with some disappointment, is the deserved lot of the Saints' supporters and officials.



With Peter Scott

The Enigma of Soper

He is undoubtedly talented, can be immensely exciting and is adored by his club's supporters.

Marshall Soper has the 'raw material' to be a shining star in Aussie soccer's rather lack lustre constellation.

Unfortunately — and in spite of his occasional exploits on behalf of the Soccerbros — the lanky striker is becoming one of the least liked personalities in the game. The fault is his alone.

Soper's theatrics after almost every hard challenge by opponents, his extended bouts of writhing and agonising, followed seconds later by a complete absence of 'symptoms', serve to incite his club's supporters and infuriate opponents.

I recommend to young Marshall that he spend some time in front of a TV set during the off-season, studying the behaviour of the true greats of the game overseas. A bit of rigorous self-examination of his behaviour pattern could see him rise to top greatness in Australian soccer, instead of the current bout of fickle adulation on the part of a section of his club's followers alone.

Indeed, he could gain the respect which is his just reward of the true greats of any sport.

Laid back

Talk about a laid back personality, Olympic's Simon Ogun definitely qualifies.

A lovely player with silky smooth skills, the British import now gracing Olympic has definite preferences about interviews with the media. "Call me in the afternoon, as I usually sleep in until noon," he said.

Meanwhile, back in the real world...

Deja Vu

Soccer's power brokers probably only buy 'Soccer Action' to look at the

Leave our names alone!

SIR — In regards to Les Murray's article on Page 4 of 'Soccer Action' of August 14 titled 'Sheean's Jigsaw Puzzle', I would like to make the following comments. I do not claim to have all the pieces to the puzzle but here is perhaps one.

I feel that one reason the soccer powers are being driven away from the international meetings is the fact that they will no longer stand the discriminatory politics of the Australian Soccer Federation which at a whim, will bend rules for its own convenience regarding relegation or promotion of clubs and which changes our club names while ignoring the ethnic backing behind these clubs.

The supporters will also no longer stand the discriminatory attitudes of SBS Television and certain journalists and commentators who, for whatever reason known only to themselves, seem to report on the 'chosen few' while ignoring the other clubs in the NSL, and yet these same people are surprised at the dwindling attendances.

The soccer supporters refuse to be used as pawns by these soccer authorities who only pay attention to the supporters when the question of profit arises. I for one and many supporters, both from my own club Makedonia and from other clubs, will continue to stay away from these games until the Australian Soccer Federation and the media come to their senses and start to respect and recognise the wishes and rights of the soccer supporters on whom they depend for attendances and success of these international meetings.

Regarding the media, we the supporters, feel that SBS is concerned only with a handful of clubs, as has been demonstrated by this season's Match of the Day. We have come to the conclusion that perhaps the producers and compilers of this program have been forbidden to mention certain ethnic names as has been demonstrated by the fact that some clubs are referred to by their ethnic names while other clubs are not, even though the supporters of these latter clubs have been quite verbal in indicating by which name they want their clubs known.

Since Mr. Murray, for one, has finally realised that soccer in this country is made up of 'pockets of ethnic groups', then he, as compiler of Match of the Day, should treat all clubs equally if he is truly concerned about the survival of soccer in this country.

In my opinion only 'Soccer Action' works for the benefit of soccer, by its complete coverage of all games and by its recognition of the ethnic communities backing the clubs. For this, we the supporters are most grateful.

Perhaps other readers could send in their ideas to try to complete 'Sheean's Jigsaw Puzzle'.

— A. TALEVSKI, Nunawading, Vic

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action pictures. At least so it seems after having listened to a brace of them, from the ASF president down, expounding their views on the perceived shortcomings of the two division set-up in the NSL.

It dilutes the available veneer of talent among 24 clubs, instead of the previous 16, would you believe? Unless my memory serves me poorly, yours truly and a number of my colleagues said exactly the same thing a couple of years ago when so-called marketing wizards were about to foist the current lunatic set-up on the public.

Then it was considered nothing better than stirring now these sentiments are starting to take on the authority of a sermon on the mount.

Does anyone still wonder why soccer's administration has a credibility rating somewhere around the level of the Soviet politburo or a Latin banana republic?

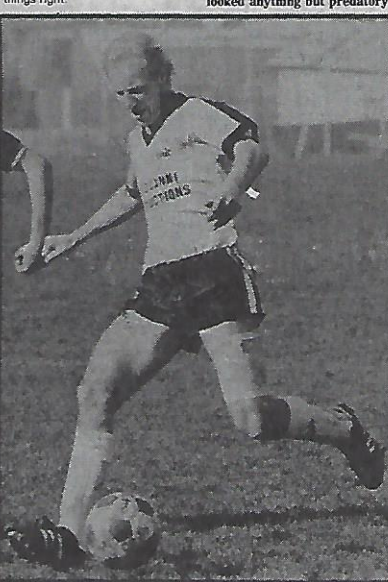
Melbourne woes

In the meantime, my advice to South Melbourne Hellas boss Jim Diamataris is to put more thought into looking for reasons behind the enormous drop in attendances in his ballfield, other than the lack of interstate clashes.

For one thing, many of the attendance figures in the southern capital over the years bore about as much relation to reality as Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairytales. To compound the problem, where are the famous talents of yesterday?

As a frequent visitor to Melbourne in decades past I can't help but compare the 'stars' of today with those of the olden days, for instance. Just as in Sydney, the current crop does not stand up to scrutiny when it comes to skills and entertainment value.

This is the cause of the disappearance of supporters and until this reality is faced squarely and tackled effectively all the tinkering in the world by well-meaning administrators and even by highly paid dilettantes will not put things right.



Steve Kannegiesser one of the stars of Juventus Pioneer. Picture: ROBIN LANE.

JUVE'S TITLE?

Juventus-Pioneer looks set to regain its Cadbury State League title in Tasmania after two important wins in the past week.

On Wednesday, Juventus easily accounted for White Eagles 4-0 and on Sunday it shrugged off Croatia-Glenorchy's challenge by winning comfortably 3-0.

Juventus now leads by two points with one game left to play and a vastly superior goal-difference over Croatia which has two matches to play.

John Broadhouse (2), Alistair Cochran and Romeo Fabrizio did the damage for Juventus against Eagles and Broadhouse (2) and Whisson scored against Croatia.

Tony Bacic and Neil

PAUL JONES THE HERO OF MINSK

Australian goalkeeper Paul Jones was the hero of his country's stunning 0-0 draw with host nation Russia, in the opening round of the 1985 World Youth Championships in Minsk.

Russia, one of the pre-tournament favorites, blew chance after chance in the first half, and was unfortunate not to be awarded a penalty by the Spanish referee.

But after soaking up the Russian pressure, the young Australians could have stolen a win in the final 10 minutes when a quick free kick by Australia's other star, striker Chris Kalanzitis, sent Lou Hristodoulou through only to shoot wide with just the Russian goalkeeper confronting him.

Australian coach Jim Shoulder was all smiles after the match, as was a weary looking captain Robert Hooker.

"I think it was only fitting that in this Hero City of Minsk (the official Soviet title for the city) our lads should put up such a heroic performance," Shoulder said.

He admitted he felt the Russians were better than he expected — a sentiment echoed by Hooker.

"They were bloody good — really tough and quick," Hooker said.

Shoulder believes that if there is one thing his team has it is spirit and doggedness.

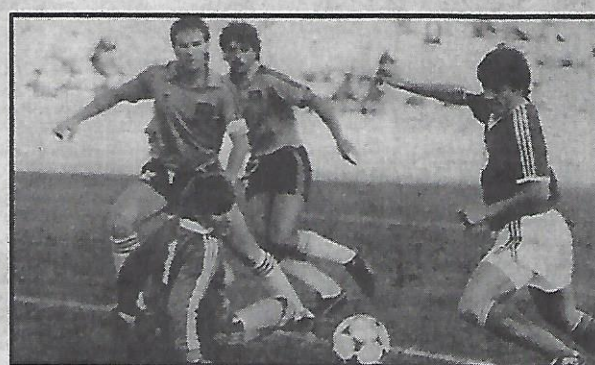
"We have something no other team has — the Aussie fighting spirit," Shoulder said.

"It may sound corny but putting on the green and gold outfit lifts the players."

"The team has gelled in the past week together and any shortcomings in terms of technical ability have been covered by the players' willingness to fight for each other."

The Australian line-up against the Russians — Jones — McLennan, Hooker, M Jones, Postecoglou — Bundalo, Sharpe, Panagis, Hristodoulou — Spink, Kalanzitis.

Nigeria's Flying Eagles looked anything but predatory



Russian midfielder Valdas Ivanauskas (right) is about to miss one of his country's many scoring chances against Australia in their 0-0 draw in Minsk in the World Youth Championships. The onlookers are Australian goalkeeper Paul Jones, sweeper Robert Hooker (left) and left back Angie Pastecoglou.

despite their 2-0 victory over Canada in the other Group C match.

The Africans disappointed those fans hoping for a skilled, enterprising display, instead relying on a counter-attacking game to hit the Canadians.

While it produced the result the Nigerians were hoping for, it provided a tepid encounter which left the small crowd disappointed.

The Africans' task was made much easier with a goal after only 20 seconds and a second in the 77th minute after what looked like a suspect off-side decision.

Canada's Coach Bob Bearpark admitted after the match

that his side's lack of technical skill was its downfall.

An interested observer in the stand was Shoulder, who admitted that what he had seen heartened him.

Results in the first day:

GROUP "A" Hungary 2 Colombia 2 (Half-time 0-0) Hungary — Attila Pinter (50th minute), Jozse Zanka (85). Colombia — Urrea Perez (88), Bedoya Rodriguez (88). Tunisia 2 Bulgaria 2 (0-1). Scores: Poland 1, Malharz (32), Lyuboslav Penev (79). Hungary — 1 0 0 2 2 1. Colombia — 0 1 0 2 2 1. Tunisia — 0 0 1 0 2 0. Scores: "B" Ireland 1 Brazil 2 (0-1). Scores: Ireland — Marcus Tait (88). Brazil — Carlos Balala (20), Marco Dida (88).

Saudi Arabia 0 Spain 0. Brazil — 0 0 2 2 1 2. Spain — 0 1 0 0 0 1. Saudi Arabia — 0 1 0 0 0 1. Ireland — 0 0 1 1 2 1. GROUP "C" Nigeria 2 Canada 0 (1-0). Scores: Monday Oduka (1), Samson Siasia (78). Soviet Union 0 Australia 0. Nigeria — 1 0 0 2 0 2. Soviet Union — 0 1 0 0 0 1. Australia — 0 1 0 0 0 1. Canada — 0 0 1 0 2 0. GROUP "D" England 2 Paraguay 2. Scores: England — Robert Walshe (16), Nicky Wood (32). Paraguay — Jorge Castaneda (36), Roberto Sanchez (74). China 1 Mexico 3 (0-3). Scores: China — Dong Lei (68). Mexico — Ambris Ignacio (19), Garciaquez Alberto (30, 45). Mexico — 1 0 0 3 1 2. England — 0 1 0 2 2 1. Paraguay — 0 1 0 2 2 1. China — 0 0 1 1 3 0.

Headlines that went wrong

Nothing soothes more than nostalgia. And if you'll pardon the gentle jab at soccer journalists, not to mention the people we so readily quote, few things are more entertaining 'than headlines which, in hindsight, smack of juicy irony.

Here are some of the better ones from 1985.

ROSEBUDS STABLE AND OPTIMISTIC — referring to the year ahead for Newcastle who finished last.

WALLACE IS CONFIDENT — poor Willie is now gone and so it seems is his former Penrith.

WOLVES BOSS PLANS IMPROVEMENT — the same Wolves who barely escaped the drop.

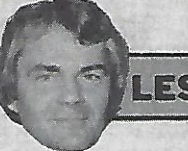
IT'S A VITAL YEAR FOR SOCCER — please copy and insert at the start of 1986.

AFLA TOSS OLYMPIC — it's funny but they did, back in January, 2-1, in the Ampol Cup.

GOALS GALORE BUT EGAN FEARS WORST — referring to Charlie's scepticism about being recalled in the national team. Two months later he withdrew, voluntarily in a blaze of publicity.

MCCULLOCH SLAMS BORING MARCONI — Tommy Mac, whose Afla finished fourth last, slamming his former boring club who finished third.

SPAT ON AND DROPPED — THE END FOR CAMPBELL — the same Jimmy Campbell who was still in the Melbourne Croatia line-up last week.



LES MURRAY

WORTHINGTON SAYS YES — that's Frank to West Adelaide but actually he meant 'no' because he never turned up.

WILL SAINTS EVER BREAK THEIR DUCK? — they did. They came fifth.

ZICO, ARDILES, HODDLE AND MR DYNAMITE — that's two out of four.

HAKOAH HOPELESS, SAYS EDDIE THOMSON — it worked, Eddie!

ENGLAND RUINING THE BEAUTIFUL GAME — no, no please, I didn't write it. It was some guy in the Irish press.

LIONS FOR FINALS, JUVE FOR WOODEN SPOON — that's Lions who finished seventh and Juve who finished second.

CUT OUT MY TONGUE — EGAN — what an awful thought.

RAW MEAT FOR LEE STERRY — go and see Charlie, Lee.

NINE GOALS AND NINETEEN NINE MISSES — now there is a reporter who kept his notes.

CRINO'S TACKLE — what, Crino tackles?

TORINO, AEK ARE NEXT — and the rest.

PAPAIOANNOU FOR OLYMPIC — more promises.

So say all of us. In 1985, that editorial appeared in the September, 1984 issue of World Soccer.

If only we had another 15 years before we had to farewell Pele and Denis Law.

World Soccer magazine, I came across an editorial.

Let me reproduce some of it.

"Stanley Matthews has said he will retire from League football next April . . .

"In any age his genius would have been obvious; in the present one it makes him practically unique.

"Gordon Smith, Scotland's 'Stanley Matthews' and ten years the junior of the Stoke City maestro, has hung up his boots at the age of forty.

"From Spain comes the news that Alfredo Di Stefano has severed his 11-year connection with Real Madrid and at 38 has reached the stage of his career when he'll probably become a soccer mercenary, playing a season here, another there.

"The game is so poverty stricken with individual talent that the foreseeable passing from the game of this trio must not go without comment.

"Fifteen years from now we could be preparing our farewells for Pele and Denis Law. In just what state the game will be then defies imagination.

"Whatever the future has to offer, though, the talented player with the unorthodox approach will always be an invaluable part of soccer."

So say all of us. In 1985, that editorial appeared in the September, 1984 issue of World Soccer.

If only we had another 15 years before we had to farewell Pele and Denis Law.

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CROATIA KO'd

By PETER SCOTT

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 1 (Lee 54)
SYDNEY CROATIA 0 at St George Stadium.
Crowd: 11,144, NSL semi-final, Sunday. Referee: Peter Rampley 8. Caution: Barnes (Hak).

HAKOAH: Pozzano 7 - Gomez 6, Robertson 8, O'Connor 8, Cant 7 - Watson 8, Barnes 7, Lee 8 - Farina 8, Kosmina 7, Mitchell 7. Coach: Eddie Thomson.

CROATIA: Watson 7 - A Kovacic 7 (Dragovic 66th min), Vidic 7, Rozic 7, M Kovacic 7, Clinch 7 - Savor 7, Odzakovic 6 - Jurin 8, Arnold 6, Patikas 6. Coach: Vedran Rozic.

Sydney Croatia players had it easy this week as they prepared for the NSL Northern Division preliminary final against Marconi tonight (Wednesday). This was decided by their polished and elegant player-coach Vedran Rozic immediately after the final whistle of their semi-final against Hakoah.

With the scoreboard showing a negative result of 1-0, Rozic blamed tiredness and, to a lesser extent, lack of concentration by his players.

"We missed our early chances and then tiredness caught up with us," the Croatia supremo said. He was flattered by Eddie Thomson's assessment of his squad as quite capable of still winning the NSL title, but modestly stated that "we have to get past Marconi first".

The big match was something of an anti-climax after the vibrant excitement of the early clash between Marconi and Olympic. Having weathered the first half which started with Patikas hitting the Hakoah upright, the match settled down into an even game. A few minutes of hope were seen in the midfield able to establish dominance.

It was a display of nervous,

Man of the match:
FRANK FARINA
(SC-Hakoah)

uneventful soccer with both defences well on top.

What excitement there was after Patikas' missed chance was another botched opportunity by Arnold a minute before the break, plus the explosion of a firecracker tossed at Hakoah's goalie Pezzano and a shower of beer bottles aimed at Steve O'Connor, plus a two-minute stoppage due to lack of a ball midway through.

In complete contrast, the second half provided Hakoah with perhaps its easiest win ever against Croatia, the narrow scoreline notwithstanding.

Lee cheekily capitalised on a defensive short-circuit in the 54th minute to stick his foot at a loose ball, steering it past a flat-footed Steve Watson. Farina, Kosmina and Lee had other chances which could easily have been converted. For Croatia the only moment of hope was when Jurin out-paced Gomez on the left wing with 22 minutes still on the

clock, but shot wide when he should have done better.

So, the pendulum between these two great rivals has now swung in favor of Hakoah for the first time, after their third clash of the year — but who would dare to bet that it will stay that way if they meet again in the grand final?

The speed of strikers Frank Farina and David Mitchell played havoc with the Croatian defence. Farina's bursts of speed gave him more than a metre on the defence in his forays along the left wing but Hakoah squandered each opportunity.

Within the space of ten minutes, he broke free four times but was also guilty of poor finishing when defender Gerry Gomez crossed into the area and Farina missed an open goal from five metres.

Socceroo captain John Kosmina, making a comeback after being sidelined for a month with a broken toe, had a quiet game but his tactical play frequently set Farina and Mitchell on the move.

"Kosmina, Farina and Mitchell did all the damage to us," said Croatia player-coach Rozic. "Hakoah marked us out of the game. They were not over-physical, just too well disciplined."



Union seeks player freedom

Freedom of movement after a player's contract has expired is one of the aims of the players' association launched in Melbourne last Thursday.

Makedonia goalkeeper Richard Wilson, convenor of the meeting to launch the association, said: "Ideally, after a player has met all the conditions of his contract, he should be free to move when that contract expires."

"It would stop the transfer fee system — and that is one of our aims."

He added: "At the moment, players are being used, and clubs put every conceivable hurdle in their way when they try to find a new club."

The meeting, at the Windsor Castle Hotel, was told the players' association would:

- protect and improve the conditions and status of all players — NSL, State League, amateurs and youth;
- ensure fair treatment of players by clubs;
- ensure players have legal advice;
- provide players with representation at appeal hearings;
- help players to transfer by keeping a list of players, their positions and history, and making it available to clubs.

A larger meeting of players will be held in October or November to officially start the association, so it is operational by January next year.

It is expected to be the first of a network of State branches of a national players' association.



Verdict of Arok

The Juventus-Hellas clash last Sunday was "more a battle than a game," national coach Frank Arok said after assessing talent at Olympic Park.

"We desperately need some changes next year to keep the public interested," he said.

"Players, coaches, referees and administrators have to get together, otherwise players will continue to get away with murder and skill will no longer be important."

And he revealed he had backed Juventus to beat Hellas, and had collected from NSL vice-president Tony Kovac.

"I was impressed with the cohesion of the Juventus team and I thought Juventus was stronger than Hellas physically," he said.

"If Juventus and Hakoah reach the national final, Juventus probably will try to play the same way again, but Hakoah is better at the hard, tough game. They've got experience, they're so cool and calm, they can spoil other teams, they can play defensively, they can counter-attack."

But Juventus would do better against Hakoah than Hellas would.

"However, if Croatia beats Marconi in the preliminary final, then I would bet on Croatia to beat Hakoah in the grand final on Sunday."

"Hellas will be vulnerable against Makedonia because they probably thought they already had it won, and now they've got injury worries. Makedonia is hungry and they've got two strikers of high quality in Lane and Smith, and their midfield is strong. Hellas has only two goalkeepers, and if Makedonia can stop them, Makedonia could win."

Of the players he saw in the double-header on Sunday, Arok was most impressed with Brian Brown and Eddie Campbell of Juventus and regrets that neither of them is eligible to play for Australia.

"Robbie Dunn was excellent for Makedonia. Ken Murphy was more involved than Oscar Crino, although Crino still was Hellas's most creative player when he got the ball."

"Charlie Yankos is better in the national team, when he gets more cover. With Heidelberg, he was too often exposed."

"Mickie was not bad at right back, and I liked Petrov in Makedonia's midfield, but I will have to see more of them."

"Little Tsolakis caused Makedonia a few problems. He looks an excellent young player who could be a little dynamo in the midfield."

How Margaritis and Wale flattened Muhammad Hellas

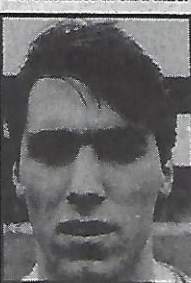
By LAURIE SCHWAB

JUVENTUS 1 (Wade 115th) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 0 after extra time, NSL semi-final at Olympic Park, Sunday. Crowd: 7786. Referee: Chris Bambridge 8. Caution: Petersen (J), Lewis (J), McDowell (SMH), Cullen (J), Campbell (J), Dowie (J).

JUVENTUS: Banovic 7 - Lewis 8, Dowie 10, B Brown 10, Campbell 8 - Wade 9, Miranda 8, Petersen 8, Incantalupo 7, Sweeney 7. Coach: John Margaritis.

HELLAS: Laumets 8 - Russell 8, Blair 8, Yzendoorn 7 (inj. sub. Bozinovski 77th), Mihos 8 - McDowell 7 (inj. sub. Kanesoulis 112th), Halford 8, Crino 8, Murphy 8 - Egan 5, D Brown 5. Coach: Len McKendry.

"I knew they would collapse and when they started going downhill, we started pushing. They were finished in extra time."



• George Mihos

I said to my players: 'Just push yourself forward. They're too tired to tackle, to kick. Just make the ball do the work.'

It's Juventus coach John Margaritis' talking after this hard-fought, slogging victory over defending NSL champion Hellas.

Of his tactics, he said: "It's no good going up against Muhammad Ali unless you've got a knife or a shotgun, so we hung back until the time was right."

Four outstanding performances highlighted Juventus' victory.

Brian Brown was near faultless against Charlie Egan, John Dowie excelled as sweeper, Peter Lewis stopped Doug Brown, pushed forward and Paul Wade scored the winning goal, and Wade himself played with the energy of a marathon runner.

But Margaritis wasn't happy with Juventus' attacking play during the period when the team hung back.

"We were playing as if Andrew Zinni was up front, running all over the place the way he usually does. But we didn't have him, and Sweeney and Cullen aren't runners who can get the sort of balls we were sending up there."

"I told them we had to play four or five passes to get the ball up there, and so we changed things completely, and eventually dominated."

Egan had two chances in the first half, to win the match. On a cross from Oscar Crino, he side-footed the ball from the near post, across goal. A little later, on a deft square pass from Gary McDowell, he missed by centimetres.

For the rest of the match, Egan and Brown never got a look-in. Hellas, however, continued trying to play through

Man of the match:
BRIAN BROWN
(Juventus)

those two, rather than varying the tactics. As an alternative Hellas could have pulled Egan and Brown back, and concentrated on attacks from deep positions.

Without detracting from the performance of young George Mihos at left back — for he played well — it was puzzling to see Gary McDowell pushed to wide midfield after he had dominated so many matches as sweeper during John Yzendoorn's absence. Yzendoorn could have taken the left back spot vacated by Angie Postecoglou who's in the USSR, enabling McDowell to stay put.

McDowell and Yzendoorn were injured during the match and replaced by John Kanesoulis and Vlado Bozinovski respectively.

The match was marred by fouls galore and pugilism behind play, resulting in referee Bambridge showing the yellow card seven times.

After Egan's two early misses, Juventus had its first attempt at scoring when Sweeney headed across goal in the 29th minute.

The rough stuff continued, with Cullen kicking Mihos on the backside while both were down. Mihos though, gave as good as he got and was shown the yellow card just after half time.

In a good Juventus attack, Sweeney had an unchallenged shot at close range but hit the side netting. Shortly afterwards, Hellas goalkeeper Peter Laumets was scrambling desperately on the ground, trying to cover the ball as Juventus players converged. He got onto it, Cullen kicked the ball out of his hands and Bambridge showed Cullen the yellow card.

With Yzendoorn off the ground Fabio Incantalupo had a free header after a cross from Eddie Campbell, but it wasn't wide enough off Laumets.

And as we approached the end of the first 90 minutes, Mihos capped a nice run forward with a strong low shot which brought the first save from Yankia Banovic.

Juventus then cut loose during extra time.

Cullen slipped through a pass that cut out two Hellas defenders, Wade ran onto it but blasted his shot over the top.

Miranda played a through ball for Sweeney to chase

well, stormed out of the penalty area and kicked clear just before Sweeney could reach the ball.

Seconds later, Incantalupo miskicked as he met a cross from Wade.

And on a cut-back from Sweeney, Cullen met the ball with a lot of force only to see Laumets make a reflex save which caused Cullen to clutch his head in despair.

Finally, Wade struck the killer blow. Brown, who had moved forward, slipped him a short pass, Wade sidestepped two opponents and planted an excellent shot across Laumets, just inside the far post, with five minutes of extra time left.



• Oscar Crino (right) of Hellas, stumbles in a clash with Richard Miranda. At rear is Ken Murphy.



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• SM-HELLAS, from left, standing — Russell, McDowell, Blair, Kanesoulis, Crino, Bozinovski. Front — Halford 1 Laumets Yzendoorn Murphy Mihos Brown Egan.

Southern Division

B'wick-Juventus

BUFFALO CUP

v Fawknor 1-1, Zinni
v Heidelberg 1-2, Sweeney
v Morwell Falcons 1-1, Incantalupe pen
v Foots JUST 0-2
v Geo Cross 3-2, Cullen 2, Sweeney

NATIONAL CUP

v Melbourne Croatia 0-2

LEAGUE

v WA-Hellas 1-2, Sweeney
v Green Gully 1-0, Cullen
v Makedonia 0-0
v SM-Hellas 2-2, Incantalupe, Zinni
v Foots JUST 3-2, Cullen, Incantalupe, Petersen
v Brisb Lions 0-0
v AC-Juventus 3-1, Zinni 3
v Geo Cross 0-0
v H'berg 2-0, Wade, Incantalupe
v Melb Croatia 1-0, Petersen
v Brisb City 5-4, Sweeney 3, Petersen, Wade
v WA-Hellas 0-1
v Green Gully 2-0, Sweeney 2
v Makedonia 2-0, Sweeney, Zinni
v SM-Hellas 3-1, Lewis, Petersen, Sweeney
v Foots JUST 1-1, Cullen
v Brisb Lions 2-1, Petersen, Zinni
v AC-Juventus 1-2, Sweeney
v Geo Cross 3-0, Zinni, Sweeney, Cullen
v H'berg 0-1
v Melb Croatia 1-1, Zinni
v Brisb City 0-0
v Heidelberg (semi-final) 2-0, Zinni, Miranda
v SM-Hellas (semi-final) 1-0, Wade

Scorers:

12. Sweeney
10. Zinni
6. Cullen
5. Petersen
4. Incantalupe
3. Wade
1. Lewis, Miranda

Players with most NSL goals:

21. Sweeney
14. Cullen
13. Zinni
9. Petersen

Sth Melb Hellas

BUFFALO CUP

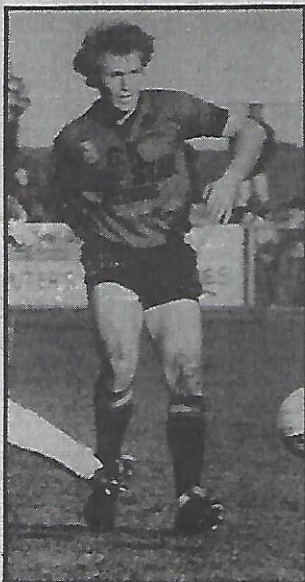
v Croatia 0-1
v Makedonia 0-1
v Green Gully 1-1, Halford
v Box Hill 4-1, Halford 2, McDowell, Egan
v Polonia 1-1, Brown

NATIONAL CUP

v Makedonia 0-1

LEAGUE

v Green Gully 3-2, Egan 2, Brown pen
v Makedonia 1-0, Egan
v Footscray JUST 3-1, Egan 3
v Juventus 2-2, Egan 2
v Adel Juve 2-2, Blair, McDowell



Zoran Ilioski — Makedonia mid-fielder

NSL finals guide



Jim Patikas (right) of Sydney Croatia, in action against Milan Jan-kovic of Red Star.

v George Cross 2-1, Egan, McDowell
v Heidelberg 1-0, Brown
v Croatia 1-2, Crino
v Brisb City 1-2, Brown
v West Adel Hellas 4-2, Murphy 2, Halford, Crino
v Green Gully 1-0, Egan
v Makedonia 3-0, Brown 2, Egan
v Foots JUST 1-0, Yzendoorn
v Juventus 1-3, Egan
v Brisbane Lions 1-1, Brown
v Adel Juventus 2-1, Egan, Brown
v Geo Cross 1-0, Crino
v Heidelberg 1-0, Brown
v Croatia 1-1, Egan
v Brisb City 4-1, Egan, McDowell, Crino, Brown
v West Adel Hellas 3-0, Egan 3
v B'wick Juventus (semi-final) 0-1

Scorers:

18. Egan
10. Brown
4. Halford, McDowell, Crino
2. Murphy
1. Blair, Yzendoorn

Players with most NSL goals:

65. Brown
60. Egan
19. Yzendoorn
14. Crino

Makedonia

BUFFALO CUP

v Polonia 3-2, Lane 3 incl pen
v SM-Hellas 1-0, Opasinis
v Croatia 0-0
v Green Gully 1-1, Spink
v Heidelberg (semi-final) 0-1

NATIONAL CUP

v SM-Hellas 1-0, Smith
v Heidelberg 2-1, Spink, Cole
v Green Gully 3-1, Smith 2, Ilioski
v George Cross (semi-final) 2-1, Cole pen, Smith
v Sydney Olympic (final) 1-2, Cole

LEAGUE

v Foots JUST 2-1, Spink, Cole
v SM-Hellas 0-1
v B'wick Juventus 0-0
v Brisb Lions 2-1, Spink, Smith
v AC-Juventus 4-2, Smith, Cole, Ilioski, Spink
v Geo Cross 2-2, Smith, Cole
v H'berg 1-4, Smith
v Melb Croatia 0-2
v Brisb City 3-0, Smith, Cole, Gagic
v WA-Hellas 1-3, Cole
v Green Gully 0-1
v Foots JUST 2-0, Dunn, Smith
v SM-Hellas 0-3
v B'wick Juventus 0-2
v Brisb Lions 4-0, Spink 2, Smith, Lane pen
v AC-Juventus 2-1, Smith, Spink
v Geo Cross 2-1, Ilioski, Lane
v H'berg 0-0
v Melb Croatia 3-2, Lane 2, Dobson

v Brisbane City 0-0
v WA-Hellas 1-1, Cole pen
v Green Gully 1-1, Heys
v Melb Croatia (semi-final) 2-1, Gagic, Petrovski
v Heidelberg (semi-final) 2-0, Lane, Angele o.g.

Scorers:

12. Smith
9. Cole
8. Spink, Lane
3. Ilioski
2. Gagic
1. Opasinis, Dunn, Dobson, Heys, Petrovski

Players with most NSL goals:

97. Cole
33. Heys
22. Ilioski
15. Dunn

Northern Division

Sydney City Hakoah

AMPOL CUP

v St. Geo Budapest 2-1, Fletcher, Lee
v APLA 1-2, Murray pen

NATIONAL CUP

v St. Geo Budapest 3-0, Kosmina 3 incl pen
v Green Gully 1-2, Fletcher

LEAGUE

v Blacktown 3-1, Kosmina 2, Barnes
v APLA 4-0, Gomez 2, Kosmina, Lee
v Wollongong 5-2, Farina 3, O'Connor, Watson
v Syd Croatia 0-2
v Inter Monaro 3-2, Farina, Gomez, Barnes
v Penrith 0-1
v Syd Olympic 2-1, Lee, Watson
v Newc-Rosebud 1-1, Farina
v St. Geo Budapest 1-0, Gomez
v Can Olympians 3-1, Lee, Farina, Kosmina pen
v Blacktown 2-1, Fletcher, Gomez
v Wollongong 1-1, Lee
v Syd Croatia 2-0, deMarigny, Kosmina
v Inter Monaro 2-2, Barnes, Kosmina pen
v Marconi 1-1, Kosmina pen
v Penrith 2-1, Lee, Gomez
v Syd Olympic 1-0, Gomez
v Marconi 0-0
v Newc-Rosebud 2-0, Farina 2
v APLA 2-0, Gomez, Barnes
v St. Geo Budapest 1-0, Kosmina pen
v Can Olympians 4-2, Farina 3, Mitchell
v Sydney Croatia (semi-final) 1-0, Lee

Scorers:

11. Kosmina, Farina
8. Gomez
7. Lee
4. Barnes
3. Fletcher



Alex Robertson — Sydney Hakoah sweeper

2. Watson
1. Murray, O'Connor, DeMarigny, Mitchell

Players with most NSL goals:

101. Kosmina
57. Barnes
26. Watson
23. Mitchell

Sydney Croatia

AMPOL CUP

v Melita Eagles 1-1, Patikas 2, 4 on pens

NATIONAL CUP

v Wollongong 2-3, Patikas, Vidacic

LEAGUE

v Marconi 3-3, Arnold 2, Rezo
v Wollongong 1-2, Patikas
v Newc-Rosebud 2-1, Odzakovic, Arnold
v Syd Hakoah 2-0, M. Kovacic, Arnold
v St. Geo Budapest 3-1, Arnold, Vidacic, Patikas
v Inter Monaro 2-0, Odzakovic, Patikas
v Can Olympians 4-2, Patikas 2, M. Kovacic pen, Jurin
v Blacktown 1-1, Odzakovic
v Syd Olympic 5-0, Arnold 2, Patikas 2, Dragicevic
v APLA 3-1, Clinch, Rowden o.g., Patikas
v Penrith 2-2, Arnold, Patikas
v Marconi 2-0, Patikas, Arnold
v Newc-Rosebud 2-0, Arnold 2
v Syd Hakoah 0-2
v Wollongong 5-1, Krncevic 2, Jurin, Arnold, Patikas
v St. Geo Budapest 2-2, Patikas, Krncevic
v Inter Monaro 1-1, Arnold
v Can Olympians 1-0, Patikas
v Penrith 1-0, Jurin
v Blacktown 4-0, Jurin 3, Patikas
v Syd Olympic 1-3, Odzakovic
v APLA 3-0, Patikas 2, Rezo
v Marconi (semi-final) 2-1, Sterrey o.g., Clinch
v Syd Hakoah (semi-final) 0-1

Scorers:

16. Patikas
13. Arnold
6. Jurin
4. Odzakovic
3. Krncevic
2. Rezo, M. Kovacic, Vidacic, Clinch
1. Dragicevic (1 + 5 with Inter Monaro)

Players with most NSL goals:

39. Patikas
24. Arnold
14. Odzakovic
10. Jurin

Marconi

AMPOL CUP

v Rockdale Ilinden 0-1

NATIONAL CUP

v Brisbane City 0-1

LEAGUE

v Syd Croatia 3-3, Jankovics 2, Calderan
v Newc-Rosebud 2-2, Jankovics, Brown
v Can Olympians 1-1, Lowe pen
v Blacktown 2-1, Brown, Bottalico o.g.
v APLA 1-4, Jankovics
v Wollongong 6-1, Brown 3, Mason, Lowe, Gray
v Inter Monaro 4-1, Gray 2, Jankovics, Lowe
v Penrith 3-1, Jankovics 2 pens, Gunning
v Syd Olympic 0-0
v Syd Croatia 0-2
v St. Geo Budapest 1-0, Gray
v Can Olympians 4-1, Brown 2, Jankovics, Lowe
v Newc-Rosebud 2-0, Carter, Brown
v Blacktown 2-0, Brown, Lowe pen
v Syd Hakoah 1-1, Sharne
v APLA 4-0, Gray 2, Jankovics, Tredinnick
v Wollongong 3-2, Lowe 3 incl 2 pens
v Syd Hakoah 0-0
v Inter Monaro 0-1
v Penrith 6-0, Jankovics 3, Brown 2, Lowe pen
v Syd Olympic 2-2, Jankovics 2
v Syd Olympic 2-2, Jankovics 2
v Syd Croatia (semi-final) 1-2, Brown
v Syd Olympic (semi-final) 3-3, Brown, Carter, Jankovics

Scorers:

16. Jankovics
13. Brown
9. Lowe
6. Gray
2. Carter
1. Gunning, Calderan, Mason, Sharne, Tredinnick

Players with most NSL goals:

98. Jankovics
48. Sharne
41. Lowe
39. Brown

Thanks
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SIR — Just a quick note to thank both Medibank Private and "Soccer Action" for once again running the "Goalkeeper of the Year" award. I'm sure your involvement in the sport is appreciated by all soccer followers, as well as the current band of goalkeepers.

Let's hope that as a culmination to a successful domestic season, our national team qualifies for Mexico, where fans of both divisions and all ethnic backgrounds can unite to support Australia.

Yours



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By ALEX VESIC

MARCONI 3 (Brown 8th, Carter 68th, Jankovics 118th) **SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3** (Soper 7th, Polias 53rd, Ziras 115th) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 11,230. NSL semi-final, Sunday. Referee: Tim Davies 6. Marconi won on penalty kicks 7-6.

Marconi scorers: Carter, Gray, Sharpe, Jankovics, Trdinick, Drisno, Sterry. Shot by Henderson saved by Meier. **Olympic scorers:** Raskopoulos, Ogun, Ziras, Soper, Rogers, Jennings. Shot by Johnston saved by James, shot by Ziras missed.

MARCONI: James 7 - Carter 8, Henderson 9, Calderon 7, Rizzotto 7 - Sterry 6, Gray 6, Trdinick 7, Lowe 6 (Sharpe 60th). **OLYMPIC:** Meier 8 - Rogers 7, Ziras 7, Jennings 6, Raskopoulos 6, Ogun 7, Johnston 7. **Referee:** Tim Davies 6. **Coach:** Manfred Schaefer.

Mark Jankovics was the toast of Marconi last Sunday as Olympic team led out of the semi-finals in a spectacular game at St George Stadium.

With barely two minutes remaining in extra time and Sydney Olympic leading by the narrowest of margins, Jankovics launched on a free kick from the right wing, placed past the diving Olympic defence and beat Gary Meier for the equaliser which sent Marconi into the penalty shoot-out.

And Jankovics once again showed why he is deadly in front of goal, it was Tony Henderson, the Marconi captain, who led by example and was clearly the best player on the Park.

On Sunday, Olympic led 2-1 after a fine header by Polias in the 53rd following a corner kick by Peter Raskopoulos.

Faced with just over half an hour to make amends, Les Scheinflug sent his captain forward into a midfield position, switching Lee Sterry to the backline.

From that moment until the end of the game Marconi always had the upper hand, with Henderson a commanding figure.

It was 'Hendo' and Jankovics who provided support for Paul Carter to run into the Olympic area in the 68th and the youngster showed some fine fighting qualities to beat two players close to the line before pushing his shot from an acute angle past Meier to make it 2-2.

This was the scoreline as the teams started extra time. Marconi continued to dominate and should have had the lead after 108 minutes when Ian Gray scored his shot from 14 metres.

However, Marconi fell behind to a goal by substitute Andrew Ziras with only five minutes of extra time remaining. A quick corner by Olympic left Marconi's defence sadly exposed for Ziras to score. It was the youngster's NSL debut.

Marshall Soper was involved in this goal, as he was on numerous occasions during the match. His opening goal was typical of this explosive striker.

A free kick by Graham Jennings was headed towards the far post by Johnston, but despite the presence of Soper it looked like James would collect the ball.

Soper raked it once, then twice, before slamming it past two Marconi players on the line. Despite some close marking on Soper through the match, he was always dangerous. He had to battle against the odds at times, with very little support from front.

His early goal was cancelled some 60 seconds later by Rod Brown. A corner kick from Trdinick was flicked on by Ziras to the far post and Brown was on hand to head past Meier for the equaliser.

Goals apart, Marconi had the better of play and chances, as well as two penalty claims turned down by Tim Davies.

Ian Gray was the main culprit, missing a sitter in the 37th. Peter Trdinick broke through only to see his shot brilliantly saved by Meier.

Man of the match: TONY HENDERSON (Marconi)

From the resultant corner kick and partial clearance by Olympic, the ball was flicked to David Lowe who went past two defenders and cut back for Gray to push it wide from only six metres!

Jankovics in the 78th, then Brown in the 80th, had opportunities but their headers failed to find the target before Olympic came back with its own chance to snatch victory almost on the stroke of full time.

Simon Ogun found Soper in the clear and the lanky striker unleashed a powerful right-footer which was brilliantly turned around the post by James.

Marconi was denied a penalty during the first period when Gray was brought down well after the ball had been played inside the area. Then Gray found himself upended, this time in the 2nd minute of extra time by Arthur Zvinos. All eyes were on Davies as he went to take it.

I have seen penalties given for far less.

In the end, the sides shared the spoils and penalties were taken.

Marconi, without Brown and specialist penalty taker David Lowe, who both had been replaced, looked a little under strength in this department.

Raskopoulos opened the scoring for Olympic, Paul Carter made it 1-1, Simon Ogun lifted Olympic to 2-1, then Meier sent this huge Olympic support delirious as he saved from Tony Henderson.

Bruce James replied for Marconi by saving from Johnston, then came Ziras and Soper for Olympic and Sharpe and Jankovics for Marconi to make it 4-4 after five penalties each.

It was a sudden death situation from here.

Rogers and Jennings scored for Olympic, Trdinick and Drisno replied for Marconi and Jimmy Ziras placed his shot wide.

Lee Sterry made no mistake with his shot, making it 7-4 to Marconi.

It was a cruel way to lose the game but one team had to lose and on the day I felt Marconi was sharper and deserved to go further. Its midfield outplayed Olympic's engineers and it will be no surprise to see Marconi reach the final.

For Olympic it was the end of a fine season and full credit must go to Manfred Schaefer and his enthusiastic players.

Having lost Stankovic for this semi-final, Katholos to Larissa and Kalantzis to the young Soccerroos, Schaefer must be proud of his efforts in 1985.

For Les Scheinflug and his Marconi team, I still predict as I did some three months ago - I grant final victory.

They are by far the most entertaining side in the League while their never say die attitude should ensure success.

Katholos departs with best wishes for Roos

Former Soccerroo Peter Katholos left for Greece last week with an emotional plea to Australia to make sure it qualifies for the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico.

Katholos will start a two-year contract with first division club Larissa, with an option for a third year.

"Israel will be very hard in the Oceania qualifying rounds which start next month and New Zealand is always tough," he said.

"It's going to be very close and I really hope we can get through."

Katholos should earn about \$30,000 over the period with Larissa, with a chance of picking up the same amount in bonuses.

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 2 (Lane 64th, Angele o.g. 70th) **HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER 0**. First semi-final at Olympic Park No. 1, Sunday. Crowd: 10,000. Cautions: Angele (Heid). Referee: Donald Campbell 7.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianedes 7, McMillan 7, Dobson 7, Dunn 6, Heys 7 - Opatinis 8, Petrovski 7, Petrov 7, Ilioski 7 - Lane 7, Smith 7. **Coach:** Bill Murray. **HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER:** Oliver 8 - McKie 7, Yankos 6, Angele 6, Marley 7 - Selemidis 6, Winn 6, Valentinos 6 (Tasios 76th), Tsolakis 6 - Stevenson 5, Metaxas 5.

When Robbie Dunn's attempted cut-back struck Joe Angele and deflected into the Heidelberg net for Makedonia's second goal, Heidelberg had ended the 1985 NSL season losing successive finals matches.

But don't think that Angele's misfortune was the turning point. Far from it, for Heidelberg was well beaten long before the ball ricocheted off Angele's legs at right angles and nestled snugly at the foot of the Heidelberg net.

Heidelberg was absolutely dreadful up front and little better in midfield. Stuart Stevenson and young John Metaxas gave each other little support, transforming Steve Winn into a midfielder is like making a polar bear live on the equator. Mike Valentine is not the Valentine of yesteryear, and Theo Selemidis hardly gave a yelp.

Little Peter Tsolakis skipped clear of the lunging George McMillan a couple of times, had a good shot blocked in the second half and played a few good balls. It was a little too late I'm afraid, and wee Tsolakis didn't get much help from his team mates.

By the early stages of the second half, it looked as if Heidelberg was quite content to hold out and take the game into extra time. Charlie Yankos, who must have sensed how poorly his side was performing, did not venture too far forward until very late and Joe Angele made me wonder why he had to come to terms with Don Macleod earlier this year.

Ian McKie and Steve Marley, noted for their ability to get forward, showed little interest in this area, albeit that their defensive

George McMillan is confident Makedonia will beat Hellas tonight (Wednesday) — if the defence holds out!

"If we score first, we'll go on to win the game. All the wads will have to work hard and play for each other," he said.

Overall, however, he expected a close game with no inch given, and with Charlie Egan and Doug Brown determined to make amends.

About Gary Cole's injury, McMillan said Cole still had a nagging hamstring problem.

If Cole is fit for tonight's encounter, he still should not play because it would be unfair to displace anybody from the team. All the lads had performed well, he said.

About rumors that McMillan may move to a Victorian State League club, he said he dearly would love to continue playing for Makedonia, but if he wasn't wanted he would move to a club closer to home —

Man of the match: JEFF OLVER (Heidelberg)

duties were conducted in a fairly efficient manner.

When it came to getting stuck in and showing a bit of dig, Heidelberg simply didn't have what it takes. Now, Makedonia isn't the hardest side in the league when it comes to dishing it out, so if Heidelberg can't compete with Makedonia in this department it's light years away from matching strides with Hellas and Juventus.

Sean Lane knows how to get stuck in. Two of his challenges on Yankos forced the Soccerroo sweeper to swing an arm in Lane's direction. If contact had been made in either instance it would have been bye, bye Charlie once again.

Stuart Stevenson gets stuck in too. But his clash with Zoran Ilioski late in the game showed just how frustrated Heidelberg had become. Ilioski parted with the ball but Stevenson kept going and shouldered the Makedonia midfielder. Ilioski reacted by chasing Stevenson and punching him. Stevenson went straight to ground but unfortunately for him, South Australian referee Don Campbell was concentrating on the ball which by now was well away from the incident. When the players left the field, Stevenson and Ilioski clashed once more. Ilioski was really wound up now and before disappearing down the players' race he threw up his arms in a defiant gesture of triumph, eliciting roars of approval from excited Makedonia supporters.

That certainly isn't the Ilioski I once knew. Not that I'm critical of the 1985 model, on the contrary. If Ilioski now is prepared to compete at every level of what is a far too physical Australian version of soccer, then Makedonia will be a lot better off.

Early in this contest, Tsolakis looked very sharp but the end product of his work did little to make life hard for Phillip Traianedes and in the 24th minute, Makedonia created the best chance of the first half.

Lane jumped up from behind Angele and headed the ball on for Steve Smith. Jeff Olver was well out of goal and although he deserves great credit for saving Smith's attempted lob, I'm sure the Makedonia striker would admit he should have scored.

and established a good reputation.

Essendon Lions (now Melbourne Croatia) brought him to Melbourne and he spent a season with them in the State League.

Bill Dumbell, then coach of Makedonia (1977) snapped up McMillan, and he has been there ever since.

He and Lubje Petrovski are the only surviving duo from Makedonia's State League triumph in 1980.

Finally we asked George how he and his teammates felt about the loss to Sydney Olympic in the National Cup final held in Sydney recently.

He said that it was a big disappointment and it took about a week to get over it. Makedonia should have won, he said, as the team totally dominated the match and the odds should have read 3-0 or 4-0 at half-time.

But alas, misfortune and the shackles of previous Cup losses haunted Makedonia as went down 1-2.

"The lads wanted to get out of Sydney quickly," he said.

That loss made Makedonia determined to play better. It played Green Gully in the last game of the season and qualified for the top five series.

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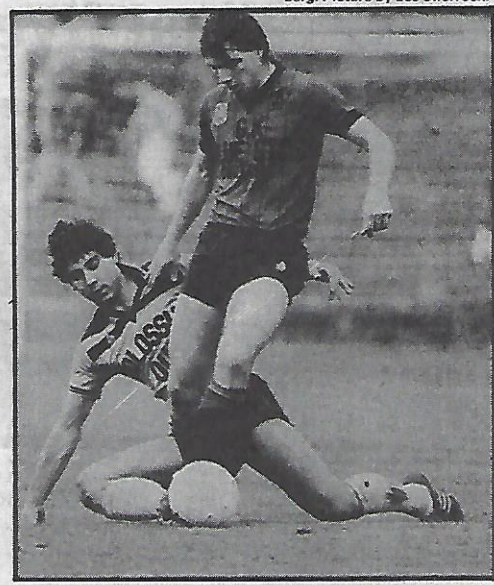
Final order of leaders:

- 38. Frankan (Can), Hoora (B)
- 31. Hocking (IM), Olver (H'B)
- 29. Greedy (St. G)
- 28. Gibson (P), Runje (M. Cr)
- 26. Kastner (SGC), Traianedes (MaK)

- 23. Wishart (BC)
- 21. Gosling (NR)
- 17. Danys (GG), Evans (BL)
- 16. Crook (WAH), McNally (ACJ), Meier (SO).



• The two goalscorers — Sean Lane of Makedonia and, at rear, Joe Angele of Heidelberg. Picture by Les Shorrock.



An overhead kick by Metaxas in the 33rd minute sent Selemidis clear but he was too slow and Graham Heys recovered to poke the ball back to Traianedes and in the 38th minute Olver was forced to come well out of his area to smack the ball clear before Lane could reach it.

Robbie Dunn, one of the outstanding players of the final five series so far, surprised Tsolakis in the 52nd minute with a brilliant tackle which sent the ball back to Traianedes and four minutes later Dunn set up Ian Dobson, following a corner, but Dobson's firm, low drive was deflected wide of the near post.

Makedonia broke the deadlock in the 64th minute but I'm convinced that Lane was offside. Georgie Petrov lobbed the ball into the Heidelberg area and amazingly, both Lane and Con Opatinis were unmarked near the penalty spot. Opatinis chested the ball down for Lane who only had Oliver to beat and did so by sideflicking the ball past the stranded Heidelberg goalie. The latter certainly went forward when Opatinis chested it down and there only was Oliver between Lane and the Heidelberg goal so unless the rules concerning offside have been secretly revamped, the goal should have been chalked off.

Within 30 seconds of going 0-1 down, Heidelberg had two good chances. A Tsolakis shot was blocked for a corner and when that came over a first time volley from Valentine was just too high.

Smith got clear in the 70th minute and should have scored but Olver parried. From the ensuing corner the ball fell to big Dunn at the far post and his attempted cut-back ended up in the Heidelberg goal.

Selemidis headed into the side netting following a Heidelberg corner in the 79th minute and Ilioski ballooned his eight-metre attempt in the 85th minute after a Petrov shot was blocked. With two minutes to go, the best players on the park, Olver and Dunn, confronted each other after Opatinis had combined well with Dunn. Olver came out on top, parrying Dunn's shot from 10 metres.



• Makedonia's 100 per cent man, George McMillan (right), in action against Stuart Cannell of Green Gully.



Man of the match:
ROBBIE DUNN
(Makedonia)

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 2 (Gagic 25th, Petrovski 40th) **MELBOURNE CROATIA 1** (Biskic 13th). Southern Division elimination final at Olympic Park No.1, Wednesday night. Crowd: about 6,000. Cautions: Antolovic, McIntosh (MC). Referee: Chris Cambridge 9.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianedes 7 — Opatinis 8, Dunn 9, Dobson 7, Heys 7 (inj. Piculovski 70th). **ILIOSKI 7**, Petrovski 6, Petrov 8, Gagic 7 — Lane 8, McMillan 7. Coach: Billy Murray.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Kolcog 7 — Curcio 7, McIntosh 7, Antolovic 6, Deankovic 7 — Biskic 7, Curovic 5, Cristaldo 6, Goejovic 7 — Markovac 5 (Ward 17, 6), Ljubic 5 (Hannah 62nd). Coach: Domagoj Kapetanovic.

"Mirko Runje could have made all the difference, but having said that, it seems to me that if we want to be a force next year then we might have to sign quite a few new players," said Croatia team manager Frank Burin in the aftermath of his team's NSL swansong for 1988.

"The capacity to compete, to rise to the occasion like the great Croatia sides of the past, simply wasn't there. We lacked both drive and direction. Both sides had their share of problems due to injury but Preston was able to field a reasonable line-up. We played our fittest players but it didn't work."

Makedonia midfielder George Petrov, one of the rising stars of the National League, offered this explanation of Makedonia's success:

"We were a lot more solid than Croatia, a lot tighter. A couple of times they got away from us, especially early on, but overall our defence was tremendous."

Indeed, Croatia should have gone ahead before opening its account in the 13th minute. In the 8th minute, midfielder Victor Cristaldo played the ball to Josp Biskic, while on the right Biskic's lob to the far post exposed Philip Traianedes for the only time in the match. Traianedes, backpedalling, missed the ball altogether and the ball fell back into the Makedonia half. The incoming Ante Ljubic did the hard thing by chopping his shot onto the bar. Goejovic had got back in behind Ljubic and pounced on the rebound only to miss it, enabling Graham Heys to clear off the danger.

Zoran Iliosi missed a great chance to score in the 12th minute. Iliosi consistently got into tremendous positions inside the Croatia area and deserves credit for doing so even if his finishing was woeful. This chance came when a Sean Lane shot struck fellow front runner George McMillan and ricocheted to the incoming Iliosi on the left but Iliosi completely mistimed his first time shot and the ball lobbed wide of goal.

Croatia had gone into the match without Runje, overseas with the national youth team, or second string goalkeeper Zeljko Govic, who was injured. Even half an hour before the kick-off, there seemed to be uncertainty in the Croatia camp about who would line-up in goal. Finally, coach Domagoj Kapetanovic selected 18 year old Ante Kolecic but surprised by veteran experienced defender George Hannah on the bench. Jim Campbell, carrying an injury like Biskic and Antolovic, declared himself fit before the game but Kapetanovic again surprised for Campbell wasn't even selected on the bench. Gary Ward was dropped to the bench, apparently for being "selfish" in the last league match, a 2-3 loss to Brisbane Lions. Robert Markovac took Ward's place alongside Ljubic, only to be replaced by Ward at half time.

Makedonia was without injured front runners Gary Cole and Steve Smith, and injured midfielder Gordon Flavell. Striker Warren Spink, of course, was overseas with the national youth team. George Gagic and Ljube Petrovski came into the side and were to be the goalscorers. Petrovski's goal was a gem, Gagic's a scramble affair. Burin was critical of young Kolecic over both goals.

"He (Kolecic) reacted a bit slowly for the first goal and although the second was a good shot it was from outside the area," said Burin.

Maybe so, but Kolecic twice denied Iliosi in the second half when a third Makedonia goal would have completely finished Croatia's chances.

But back to the opening goal. It came after good work by Goejovic down the left. His cross to the near post picked out Markovac who got a turn in but slipped. Biskic, ever alert, picked up the ball on a diagonal run across the goalmouth then struck a low shot into the bottom far corner to give Croatia the lead.

Petrovski, Gagic end Croatia's final five fling



• Ljube Petrovski — his goal put Melbourne Croatia out of the finals.

Makedonia's character now was under the microscope. And it responded in style.

Con Opatinis took a free kick from the left and sent the ball to the far post. From Ian Dobson's challenge in the air, the ball fell for Iliosi whose hard, low shot was blocked only two metres from goal. The ball fell to Gagic who slid down and struck it in from point blank range to make it 1-1.

In the 28th minute, Lane crossed from the right and the incoming Iliosi had his shot from the penalty spot blocked by Drago Deankovic, the ball bouncing out for a corner.

Makedonia was on top now and what a cracking goal it scored in the 40th minute. Graham Heys played the ball long from the left to Lane whose chested lay-off to Petrovski was first class. So was Petrovski's finish. He unleashed a first time drive that sent the ball flashing past Kolecic and into the far corner for what was to be the winner.

Three minutes later Ljubic and Biskic combined well but Ljubic lost control of the ball just as he was about to enter the Makedonia area and in the 44th minute the sliding Cristaldo narrowly failed to get a touch to a Goejovic cross.

Lane could have settled it in the 62nd minute when McMillan headed on and put Lane clear on the left but the Makedonia striker shot over from eight metres.

Croatia increasingly found it difficult to create chances. Robbie Dunn was commanding at the back, never losing his cool and also built up play well. He looked like an international player.

Makedonia strung a great move together in the 70th minute. It played the ball short in midfield then McMillan released Opatinis on the overlap down the right. Opatinis's far post cross picked out Iliosi whose volley from only six metres was tipped wide by Kolecic.

Six minutes later, Lane, a tireless worker, put Suleiman Curovic under pressure. Curovic lost the ball and Petrov played it across the park to Iliosi on the left. Iliosi cut inside, then smacked a low shot against the outside of the near post.

Croatia's finals hopes were dashed and the contest ended on a comical note with Iliosi, Opatinis and Gagic camped around the Croatia goal with just Kolecic and a Croatia defender confronting them. Iliosi was in possession but even then Makedonia couldn't score. Iliosi's shot struck Kolecic, Opatinis's shot from the rebound struck the defender as did Gagic's attempt from the second rebound.

BRUNSWICK-JUVENTUS 2 (Zinni 69th, Miranda 77th). **HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 0** at Olympic Park, Wednesday night, second semi-final. Crowd about 6000. Cautions: Yankos (H), Petersen (J). Referee: Jim Fearn 8.

JUVENTUS: Banovic 7 — Lewis 8, Dowie 7, Brown 7, Campbell 7 — Wade 7, Miranda 8, Petersen 7, Incantalupo 7 — Zinni (Durakovic 71st), Sweeney 7. Coach: John Margaritis

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 7 — McKie 8, Yankos 7, Angelo 6, Marley 8 — Tasios 4 (Valentine 72nd), Christopoulos 4 (Metaxas 80th), Winn 6, Tsolakis 6 — Stevenson 5, Selemidis 5. Coach: Brian Garvey.

Juventus coach John Margaritis said he had planned to get on top of Heidelberg in the mid-field. "Our midfielders are much better, much stronger than the likes of Christopoulos, Tsolakis and Tasios," he said. "I was impressed with the way my midfielders dominated the game. I liked the professional attitude of Miranda because he didn't do anything silly for a change. Incantalupo hasn't got the aggression of Miranda, but he created chances and his passing is perfect."

Overall, we have a very good blend — Zinni running up front, Sweeney doing his job, and a very strong defence.

"But we threw away top place on the ladder by dropping six points to West Adelaide and Adelaide City."

In the end, Hellas and Juventus deserved to fill the top two places because they are superior to the other teams."

Margaritis was disappointed to lose Zinni after the flying forward had shot Juventus into the lead against Heidelberg last Wednesday. "He was burning, running around like crazy," Margaritis said. "But when he scored, he overextended and damaged a thigh muscle."

Margaritis praised the Heidelberg defenders and goalkeeper Jeff Oliver for holding Juventus out as long as they did.

But according to Oliver, he and Yankos were to blame for the two goals.

Speaking about the first, scored by Zinni, Oliver said: "Charlie was chasing the ball and I was coming out at him, calling for the ball pass."

"Somehow, Charlie overran the ball and it got behind him. That left Zinni with the easy task of putting it over my head, which he did."

Of the second goal, scored by Miranda with a brilliant curling shot, Oliver said: "He caught me too far off my line and chipped me. I got a slight touch, but I'm not taking anything away from Miranda. He finished it very well."

Oliver conceded that a defeat had been on the cards because Heidelberg had been playing well. "We'd struggled a bit in the mid-field — maybe because we haven't got a real ball-winner there — but really, all I'm concerned with is keeping goal. I've got enough problems there."

The Heidelberg midfield was almost totally ineffectual against Wade, Miranda, Petersen and Incantalupo. Although Steve Winn raced around a lot, getting in the way of opponents as much as he could.

With Steve Tasios, George Christopoulos and Peter Tsolakis cut out of the play, Heidelberg's strikers, Theo Selemidis and Stuart Stevenson, saw very little of the ball. In fact, Steve Marley was Heidelberg's only source of attack, but even he was not creative enough.

Brown, Dowie, Lewis and Campbell were as tight

Juventus midfield destroys Heidelberg

Oliver, Yankos falter

Man of the match
RICHARD MIRANDA
(Juventus)



• Andrew Zinni — opened Juve's account against Heidelberg.

as they'd ever been in Juventus's attack, leaving goalkeeper Yankos Banovic with only one difficult save for the whole game.

As well as defending soundly, Lewis pushed up at every opportunity.

Yet it was Heidelberg that threatened to take the lead as early as the first minute of play when Tsolakis sidestepped Brian Brown at the edge of the area, but was blocked by John Dowie in the nick of time.

Then the procession started, and had Juventus's players stayed on their feet while shooting at goal, they may have established a two or three-goal lead in short time. Instead, Incantalupo and Wade both shot while falling, which minimised their accuracy and power.

A free kick by Petersen, over a foul on Incantalupo, was well saved by Oliver, and in a breakaway by Zinni, Sweeney headed goalwards only to see the ball deflected for a corner.

In between, however, Selemidis put the ball into the net for Heidelberg, but the whistle had gone for a foul on Tsolakis, the player who had crossed the ball.

Petersen, in the clear on the left after a cross, put a strong drive just past the near post; Incantalupo beat Oliver with a shot but put it across goal. Incantalupo miskicked after a cross from Wade; Sweeney, on the turn, had his shot saved by Oliver and Oliver came out of his area to cut off Zinni who was galloping through on a long hit from Miranda.

Oliver repelled another attempt from Wade just before half time and Heidelberg resumed full of promise — for a few minutes, anyway.

After Stevenson's shot had flashed across goal, a free kick from Tsolakis landed for Winn who looked all set to score. Eddie Campbell however, blocked him, and Incantalupo cleared.

And so Juventus re-established its dominance. Zinni broke away, laid the ball back to Petersen and Incantalupo chased Petersen's cross into the six-yard box where Oliver pounced again.

Then, in the 60th minute, came the opening goal, scored by Zinni, the way Oliver described it earlier.

Mehmet Durakovic who, together with Joe Palatidis and Rino Minichiello scored most of the Juventus youth team's 66 goals this season, came on to replace Zinni in the 71st minute.

Mike Valentine replaced the disappointing Tasios a minute later, and Juventus made it 2-0 in the 77th, with that inspired curling shot past Oliver.

John Metaxas replaced Christopoulos with 10 minutes to go, and Heidelberg managed a late flurry during which Yankos shot too high. Valentine hit the post with a free kick and Stevenson forced Banovic to punch over the bar.



• Richard Miranda — his shot caught Jeff Oliver too far out of goal.

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Offside farce, Ratcliffe sent off!

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Lambropoulos 64th) ST GEORGE 0 at St George Stadium, NSL semi final. Wednesday, crowd 4305, referee Gary Power 7. Cautions: Lambropoulos, Raskopoulos, Polias, Ratcliffe, J. O'Shea. Sent off: Ratcliffe 71st.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier 8 — Rogers 7, Ziras 7, Lambropoulos 7, Jennings 8. — Johnston 7, Raskopoulos 7, Ogun 7, Swinas 5, Polias 63rd — 6. — Soper 7, Koussas 5 (81st Haniotis). Coach: Manfred Schaefer.

ST. GEORGE: Greedy 8. — Skeen 8. Ratcliffe 7 (sent off 71st), M. O'Shea 7, R. O'Shea 6. — Stone 6, J. O'Shea 7, Barton 7 (Bozanic 76th), Ricoy 5. — Slater 7, Cotton 6. Coach: Frank Arok.

Five yellow cards and one red card were shown during this drama-filled elimination game, won by Sydney Olympic on a controversial decision.

St George players were highly critical of the referee after the match during which Gary Power:
• booked, then sent off David Ratcliffe for two successive fouls on Marshall Soper, his Soccerroo team-mate.
• Disallowed Mark Barton's first-

half goal over a dubious offside decision.
• allowed Sydney Olympic's winner through Lambropoulos although Sydney Olympic Player stood on St George's goal line at the time, in an apparent offside position.
Ratcliffe was furious, to say the least, claiming that Soper's "theatrics have done it again".
"I came into contact with the ball as I challenged Soper in the 71st," claimed Ratcliffe.
TV replays at the stadium showed clearly that Ratcliffe did come into contact with the ball first as he tackled Soper, who went into the air as if hit by a hurricane from Botany Bay and Gary Power sent the Soccerroo sweeper off.
And while Ratcliffe was at a loss to understand that decision and while I may agree it as harsh, there was no doubt about the feelings the two Soccerroo players had for each other.
Soper was also involved in some heated off-the-ball clashes with Michael O'Shea during the first period and the two were warned by the referee but somehow Soper did manage to avoid being shown the card.
Soper, a fine player and, definitely

Man of the match:
GRAHAM JENNINGS
(Syd. Olympic)

one of the best in Australia, was the tormentor of Saints' defence in more ways than one, but I could not help feeling that some of his theatrics could incite this large Olympic following into yet another frenzy.
Cans were thrown onto the Park as Soper "lay near croaking" after the first of Ratcliffe's tackles and the general feeling among the soccer scribes inside the Press box was that Soper, hurt or not, was making too much of a meal of it.
There is no doubt the crowd idolises Soper and so they should, he is one hell of a player, but for the sake of sanity on the terraces, Soper should change his tack.
There was more trouble earlier, as Saints scored what looked a fair goal. Robert O'Shea found Mark Barton on the edge of the Olympic area and the Saints' midfielder waltzed past two defenders to slot his shot wide of Meier. Olympic players accepted their mistake and Saints players rushed for

centrefield as the linesman raised his flag for offside.
Vehement protests fell on deaf ears. Then came the winner. A Raskopoulos free kick saw Saints' defence at sixes and sevens, with Mark Koussas suddenly free on the left to face Greedy. His shot bounced off Greedy's chest to the feet of Lambropoulos who slotted it back into the net.
At the time he shot goalwards, an Olympic player looked to be on the goal-line.
Again Saints' players protested and the game was stopped for some two minutes but the linesman (the same one) remained adamant that he saw no infringement and Mr. Power awarded the goal.
Manfred Schaefer was a happy man after the match, indicating almost arrogantly that he "did Arok a favour by beating St. George. He (Arok) can now concentrate on the national side."
In the meantime the Soccerroo and St. George coach was not going to make statements about the refereeing. However he suggested that he felt Saints had scored a good goal.
I said it in my last report from an Olympic game at Barton Park: president Jimmy Petelinis should consider making St. George an offer for this stadium. His side has led a charmed life at this venue and it appears the size of the ground suits Olympic's style of play.



Pathetic, says Papallo

But Marconi secretary Keith Charles strongly denied allegations the club was conducting a campaign against APFA.
"We were not concerned with points, places or results but with what had happened," Charles said.
"It was not a case of sitting on the fence and waiting to see the results."
"Marconi did not receive a copy of the NSL decision until Thursday and a meeting of the board was needed to consider and approve an appeal."
"This was finally arranged for Sunday night it can't be organised at two minutes' notice."
"The club feels justice has not been done, that we did the right thing and should not be penalised."
Charles said Marconi could not take any earlier action because of the National League's delay in hearing the APFA appeal.
Although APFA lodged its application on July 1 the League did not announce its decision until August 13.
— TED SIMMONS

APFA president Nick Papallo has charged Marconi with "mud-raking" following an appeal which has renewed the threat of relegation for APFA.

Marconi has submitted an appeal against a decision by the NSL executive that Tony Henderson was an ineligible player in the 4-0 win over APFA on June 30 and that the match points be awarded to APFA with a scoreline of 0-0.

Marconi president Cossimo Mariani said the board viewed with concern the circumstances surrounding the ruling and asked the league to hear the appeal as quickly as possible.

If the appeal is upheld and the win returned to Marconi, then APFA will face relegation instead of Penrith because of its poorer goal difference.

"I am astounded by the action of Marconi and rather surprised they waited until after the last round to lodge an appeal which could get us relegated," Papallo said.

"Their timing is pathetic and I'm sure the NSL will give the consideration this type of mud-raking deserves."

"I do not believe there are any grounds for appeal or that further action can be taken."

"Also, I would have thought any club that disagreed with an NSL decision would have immediately lodged an appeal instead of waiting eight days."

"APFA made its appeal on July 1, the day after the match."

"We didn't wait to find out what was going to happen first."

Croatia wins it with ten men

SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (Sterroy a.g. 11th, Clinch 49th). MARCONI 1 (Brown 17th), NSL semi final at Marconi Stadium, Wednesday. Crowd 2829. Referee: Richard Lorenc 8. Cautions: Sterroy, Calderan, Mason (M), Basic, Savor Odzakovic (C). Sent off: Basic (C), Mason (M).

SYDNEY CROATIA: Waston 7 — M. Kovacic 7, Rezo 8, Basic 7 (sent off 38th), Rozic 9. — Clinch 7, Savor 8, Odzakovic 7. — Jurin 6 (Dragicevic 67th), Patikas 7, Arnold 6. Coach: Vedran Rozic.

MARCONI: James 7 — Carter 7, Sterroy 7, Henderson 8, Calderan 7 — Mason 7 (sent off 89th), Gray 5, Tredinnick 7. — Lowe 6, Jankovics 7, Brown 6. Coach: Les Schoenflug.

Although referee Richard Lorenc flourished the red and yellow cards regularly during this preliminary semi-final, it could not be said that it was a scrappy game. The two sides played a great deal of delightful football, with both individual and team skills well to the fore.

David Rezo put Bruce James to the test in the 4th minute with a strong shot which the Marconi keeper did

well to hold at the foot of the post.
Croatia took the lead in the 11th minute in unusual circumstances. Odzakovic tried to find Jim Patikas with a through ball but defender Lee Sterroy won the race for the ball with Patikas, and unfortunately his lob, intended for James on the goal line, easily cleared the head of the advancing keeper.
James made a fine save from a Shane Clinch effort in the 13th minute and Marconi was able to get back into the game soon after.
A Sterroy cross from the right appeared to present no great danger, but a defensive lapse by normally reliable Vedran Rozic allowed Rod Brown to score after finally connecting with the bobbing ball in the goal mouth.
Brown missed at the first attempt, but persevered and was just able to push the ball over the line before Rozic could recover.
A number of over-zealous tackles did not interrupt the flow of the game which continued to move at a fast and entertaining pace.
Graham Arnold badly missed a Patikas cross in the 25th minute and Marconi showed its best form during the remaining minutes of the first half.

Man of the match:
VEDRAN ROZIC
(Syd. Croatia)

Craig Mason produced a lovely ball for Paul Carter whose shot was only just wide. Steve Calderan was at the end of another fine Marconi run, approaching the edge of the box when brought down in very deliberate fashion by Basic.
He had to go and the red card came as no surprise.
When the first half came to a close the crowd was hungry for more of the same and they were not disappointed.
Spreading the ball wide and making full use of the Marconi pitch, the players showed a willingness to move forward at every opportunity although Croatia was of course reduced to 10 men.
There was a great deal of versatility about Croatia's play with players constantly swapping roles. Wally Savor and Graham Arnold maintained deeper positions than normal, while Clinch and Rezo ventured forward more than usual.

Croatia was fortunate to reap success from its tactics early in the second half. In the 49th minute Zelko Jurin on the right put over a smart cross intended for Patikas at the near post.
Patikas appeared to miss it and Clinch, unattended at the far post, tapped the ball in.
Two minutes later, at the other end, Peter Tredinnick crossed from the left and Calderan headed the ball towards goal. When Steve Watson dropped the ball, it was Graham Arnold on the line who cleared for Croatia.

Soon after, another Tredinnick left-side run ended with a Jankovics volley which skimmed the bar. Bruce James saved from Patikas at point-blank range after a Jurin run and Dragicevic put over a ball for Clinch which Marconi defenders did well to intercept.
With time fast running out, Patikas was upended by Mason who had already received a yellow card and Mason was despatched to join Basic on the sideline.
The evening's play was most enjoyable, despite some isolated late tackling.
Jurin left the field with a hamstring injury and Basic and Mason were to be suspended.

A.C.T. takes on Waverley

An under 14 selection from the A.C.T. will visit Melbourne to play friendly matches against local sides at indoor soccer.

The A.C.T. is preparing for the national indoor titles to be held in January next year and is looking forward to the match against Waverley U14's, which is scheduled to be played at the new Waverley league indoor soccer centre at the Waverley skate rink, 14 Hardner Rd, Waverley, next Wednesday night.
The centre will also accept new teams to its league which starts mid-September, so if you're interested in seeing a demonstration game of indoor soccer or enrolling a side in the new Waverley branch of the A.I.S.F., be there by 7 pm.

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AUSTRALIA NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM — 1985
WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
U.S.S.R.

AUSTRALIA v CANADA
Wednesday, August 28, 12.55am
AUSTRALIA v NIGERIA

Friday, August 30, 12.55am
WORLD YOUTH SOCCER FINAL
Sunday, September 8, 12.55am

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Heidelberg Alexander, back row: George Christopoulos, Chris Ketsakidis, Stevie Winn, Jeff Olver, Stuart Stevenson, Charlie Yankos, Theo Selemidis, Joe Angele. Front: Steve Tasios, Mike Valentino, John Metaxas, Ian McKie, Peter Tsolakis. Picture: CARLOS PICASSO.

STEFANIDIS: GIVE GREEK KIDS A GO

"Most people at most clubs are only interested in winning championships. I'm not 100 percent like that. I believe we must put the kids in the team, at least two every season, to give them experience," says Heidelberg Alexander president Steve Stefanidis.

And he also believes that Heidelberg Alexander's first team should be made up mainly of Greek players.

"First of all we are a Greek club. So we should have six or seven Greek players in our team, with the rest of the players coming from other countries."

Stefanidis, while plugging the young stars at Heidelberg, strikes a note of caution: "You can't put all the kids in at once but if you give them experience, bit by bit, you will have good players in the future and you won't have to pay big money to get players from overseas or on the local market."

The youngsters that Stefanidis holds high hopes for include Steve Tasios, John Metaxas, Peter Tsolakis, Nick Deligiannis, Pashalis Tzintzis and Chris Ketsakidis. Tzintzis is recovering from injury and Ketsakidis was bought from Northcote this year.

"These young players will improve tremendously. They're learning every day, and the future of Heidelberg Alexander rests in their hands," says Stefanidis.

While confident that these youngsters have a bright future, Stefanidis also is confident that Brian Garvey's future at the club is rosy.

"We (the committee) are very, very happy with Brian Garvey and the job he is doing. He is not contracted to us for next year but if he is willing to stay we are happy to have him."

That's an early rebuttal to annual speculation surrounding the coaching job at one National League club at least. Garvey, of course, was voted Coach of the Year at last year's Victorian press awards. It was his first season with Heidelberg Alexander.

Stefanidis joins the debate concerning the format of the National League when he says that if the current format isn't changed to a 14-team league for next season, the only alternative is for clubs to turn to a system of State Super Leagues.

"Our club is no different to most. We're all losing supporters and we have to stop that trend."

"We call the Northern Division part of a national competition but it's not. It's just a NSW State League. Everyone can see that. Take the Brisbane and Adelaide clubs out of the Southern Division and you're left with a Victorian State League."

"The way things are now it's possible to have four local

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

derbies in Melbourne on the one day. That's crazy! We must have a 14-team league with six teams from Sydney, six from Melbourne and two from Adelaide and we must arrange the fixtures so that there never are more than two local derbies in Melbourne on the same day. When we have four derbies we split the crowd too much. You'll get 1,000 people watching South Melbourne Hellas, 1,000 watching Alexander, 1,000 watching Croatia and 1,000 watching Juventus. That's no good.

"And if we can't have a 14-team league then let's start a system of State Super Leagues and include clubs from Morwell, Ballarat and Geelong. If we (Alexander) play a club from Geelong at least they'll bring 200 supporters with them and that's a lot better than playing an Adelaide or Brisbane club."

"And if we play in a State Super League then we can immediately put \$30,000 back into our pockets, because there's no way that we'd have to pay that much in affiliation fees like we have to now."

Stefanidis owns Colossus Oil, the major sponsor of Heidelberg Alexander. His company started its major sponsorship half way through last season and by the end of this season the coffers of Heidelberg Alexander will be \$20,000 fuller.

Stefanidis was born in Greece and came to Australia in 1968. He's married with two daughters who are as fanatical about Heidelberg Alexander on match day as their dad. Through a friend, Stefanidis was introduced to the club as a spectator back in 1970 and in 1979 he joined the committee. When Sam Gouloupoulos ended a three and a half year term as president earlier this year Stefanidis was elected, on a 7-6 vote, as the new president, defeating Spiro Rombotis, the other presidential candidate. Rombotis however, still contributes his expertise to the club as a committeeman. The committee comprises:

Stefanidis president; Peter Tsaklis, vice president; Lou Ioannides, team manager; Chris Dzanovski, secretary; Nick Kalamandis, ground manager; Rombotis, Nick Avramopoulos, Steve Kyrou and Nick Katsakis.

While running the club on a sound footing is Stefanidis's main aim ("I'm carrying on the policies of Mr Gouloupoulos," he says), and, as already stated, winning championships isn't the only thing which occupies his mind, he thinks that Heidelberg Alexander will be far better placed next year to make a championship bid. His reasoning is that the young stars at the club will have matured.

"We'll be about 50 percent better off as a team next year. I'm sure of it. I've got a lot of faith in the established players and just as much faith in our youngsters."

Heidelberg Alexander

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

"I'm encouraging the players to be strong and mentally, both on and off the ball. The fact that a lot of people around the club though broken when we started the year by winning Gold Cup but we finished the league season I haven't been quite as successful as last year, finished second."

So says Heidelberg Alexander coach Brian Garvey, who admits that Brunswick Juventus and South Melbourne Hellas have shown themselves to be harder than his team. Garvey has gone for a blend between stronger challenging players, as he calls them, and creative players but the big plus for him this year has been the introduction of "another one or two youngsters into the first team."

"Last year we introduced Joe Angele, John Gabrielson, Steve Tasios and John Metaxas to the first team and this year we've introduced Peter Tsolakis and Chris Ketsakidis but when you talk about finishing on top of the league you're talking about a marathon and you need experienced players, players who will give you the kind of consistency you need. The Buffalo Gold Cup was more like a sprint."

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Garvey's side been as settled. Scott Patterson, and Steve Winn dropped through season. All play Heidelberg's B success with W starring in the c of Melbourne Cr

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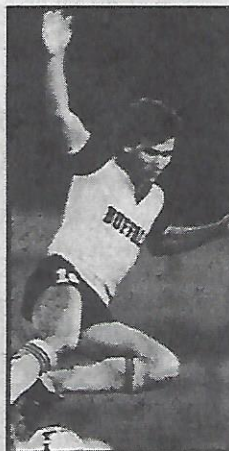
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The Heidelberg ished in the top is full of praise fo youth team coac

"I find that yo here have a ve indeed because from over-ambit think that their players in the course, has play has coached at a very knowled he's instilling go youth players habits that will good stead thre reers."



Steve Tasios



John Metaxas

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Heidelberg Alexander



Heidelberg coach Brian Garvey

COACH GARVEY: WE'VE GOT TO GET TOUGH!

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But let's look now at Garvey's first team squad, through his eyes:

JEFF OLVER (Goalkeeper): "Jeff's had a great year, even better than last year. He's a real winner. Even at training he hates having goals scored against him. He's courageous and he's worked very hard to get where he is."

NICK LAGOUIS (Goalkeeper): "Nick's been our regular youth team keeper and he's got promise. Just before the transfer deadline we signed another young keeper, Tony Costa from Faw-

kner, but he got injured. You can't have two experienced keepers at the one club and keep them happy and I wanted to have three keepers instead of just two. The young lads, Nicky and Tony, can learn a lot from Jeff and can develop their games."

IAN MCKIE (Defender): "Ian's had another consistent season. It's very unfortunate that again he's been overlooked for representative honors when he's deserved selection, nevertheless, he's got to keep going and I'm sure he will. His attitude is excellent. He's a good defender and he's also very good going forward."

CHARLIE YANKOS (Defender): "Strong and powerful and hates losing. All good players have that attitude. Charlie's always working to prove that he's the best in whatever he does and that's why he's so successful."

JOE ANGELE (Defender): "He came on a treat last year in fact he won our Most Improved Player award. He's a great trier and gives you all he's got."

STEVE MARLEY (Defender): "What a good competitor he is. He's also got a lot of technical ability, very neat on the ball, and

he defends well and goes forward well."

JOHN GABRIELSON (Defender): "John got injured last year and this year he's battled hard to regain his fitness and confidence but the way the defence has been playing there's not been much of an opening for him."

CHRIS KETSAKIDIS (Defender): "I saw Chris playing for Northcote and I was quite impressed with him. We had a problem over his transfer earlier this year but when he's finally been able to come into the side he's shown me that he's strong in the air and aggressive. I'm hoping that by training and playing with the senior players he'll develop into a regular."

GEORGE CHRISTOPOULOS (Midfielder): "We signed George from Canberra this year but we've yet to see the best of him. He's a long term signing and I'm sure that we'll gain the full benefit of his ability. He's had a lot of things on his mind this year. He's struggled with an injured ankle, he's put a lot of time into developing his business concerns and he also got married. I'm looking to big things from George in the future."

STEVE TASIOS (Midfielder): "To me he's one of the most exciting young players in Australia. He was very, very unlucky to miss out on selection for the national youth squad but he's got to get over that. It was a big disappointment to both Steve and me. If he progresses as he should, he can develop into a senior international."

MIKE VALENTINE (Midfielder): "I've already said that Micky hasn't had a great season. He hasn't been involved the way he used to be and his passing hasn't been as good as it should be. He's got a ton of stamina and a lot of technical skill but I want him to show a lot more urgency during games."

JOHN METAXAS (Midfielder): "John's got good ball skills and he's fast. He's also very versatile and I've used him at the back, in midfield and up front. He first was involved with the seniors last year and I want him to show a bit more patience. It takes time for lads to develop but I've got no doubts that John will get there."

THEO SELEMIDIS (Midfielder): "He started tremendously well. I had to push Theo up front because of the lack of form of my strikers and he's worked hard for me. I'd like him to shoot more because he's got a powerful shot. He's also good in the air so he's quite capable of scoring goals."

STEVE WINN (Forward): "Our top scorer last year but he lost his touch so I had to drop him. But give the lad credit. He played in the youth team and fought his way back into the first team. I used him in midfield recently and he's done well there. He's worked hard and he's aggressive."

STUART STEVENSON (Forward): "Stuart's had a good season. He's our leading scorer but he's suffered a little bit of late because of the team's performance. He's fast, he's aggressive, he's got a good shot and he's good in the air so he's got an awful lot going for him."

PETER TSOLAKIS (Forward): "We signed Peter from Port Melbourne this year. He trained with us early in the season and was impressive and he's progressed a lot since then. He's scored for us and he's fast and nippy. He's caused quite a few problems for opposition sides."

NICK DELIGIANNIS (Forward): "Nick's only played the odd game but he's a hard worker and his time will come. I'd like to see him scoring more and I'm encouraging him to be stronger and more determined."

CLUB HONORS

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- 1960 — Third Division champion
- 1961 — Second Division champion
- 1963 — First Division champion
- 1965 — First Division champion
- 1969 — First Division champion
- 1975 — State League champion
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Tansey, Singleton to return?

Croydon overcame a major hurdle in its race for the title when it easily accounted for Box Hill last weekend and should continue on its winning way at the expense of bottom of the table club Albion Turk Gucu at Selwyn Park on Saturday.

Albion's just about doomed even though just two points separate it from fourth bottom side Ringwood Wilhelmina and its fate could be sealed should it lose to Croydon as expected.

Croydon should have Jim Tansey and Dave Singleton back from suspension for this match and if they both play then a couple of players who did well against the Hillmen are going to be unlucky to miss out.

Morwell Falcons go into Saturday's North Crigian Reserve clash with Frankston Pines without suspended striker Ian Burton. Falcons coach Jimmy Dunne could bring John O'Callaghan into the

By GRAIG MACKENZIE

Polonia has been decimated by injury this season and has done well to maintain its claim for a top spot. Nevertheless, I'm tipping a Falkner victory. Boyle has reverted to a 4-4-2 formation with Joe Palinkas and Bruno Cozzella up front. More importantly, he's using players in positions which best suit them. Frank Macleod is back in the heart of the defence alongside Cesare Fatore while Colin Quigley again is the playmaker in midfield.

Boyle isn't keen on playing himself but he'll again be on the bench and can come on if needed.

St Albans Dinamo travel to Egan Lee Reserve on Saturday to take on Knox City in a match vital to the survival of both sides.

Dinamo star Branko Culina may not play again this sea-

son. He's been plagued by knee ligament problems and has been advised to rest the injury. Despite his loss, Dinamo can force a draw in what should be a no-holds barred encounter.

Ringwood Wilhelmina could surprise Springvale and grab a point from their Ross Reserve clash on Saturday. Springvale will have Jim Nelson, Keith Adams and Neil Garvey back. They missed their team's 0-0 draw with Pines last weekend, a result made more meritorious by their absence. Recent results suggest that a draw would be a shock, for the Vales have had a tremendous run since Bobby McLachlan took over as coach. But the fact that Wilhelmina has much more to play for may enable it to match the home team.

Norcoke has kept a clean sheet for the past few weeks and can get a draw from Sunday's John Cain Reserve clash with Box Hill while Western Suburbs should beat Thomastown at Partridge Reserve even if defender George Beattie is out suspended. Here are this weekend's games with likely winners in capitals.

SATURDAY
Albion Turk Gucu v Croydon at Selwyn Park, 3pm.
MORWELL FALCONS v Frankston Pines at North Crigian Reserve, 3pm.
Springvale v Ringwood Wilhelmina (draw) at Ross Reserve, 3pm.
Knox City v St Albans Dinamo (draw) at Egan Lee Reserve, 3pm.

SUNDAY
FAWKNER v Polonia at Smith Reserve, 3pm.
Northcote v Box Hill (draw) at John Cain Reserve, 3pm.
Thomastown v WESTERN SUBURBS at Partridge Reserve, 3pm.

Buffalo State League standings

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CROYDON	15	5	3	44	14	35
MORWELL FALC.	14	5	4	39	17	33
BOX HILL	12	6	5	39	30	30
FRANKSTON PINES	10	7	6	47	32	27
West Suburbs	10	6	7	32	30	26
Polonia	9	7	7	33	25	25
Northcote	8	7	8	33	26	23
Fawkner	7	7	9	37	31	21
Thomastown	7	7	9	26	35	21
Springvale	7	6	10	20	24	20
R. Wilhelmina	5	6	12	23	37	16
St Alb. Dinamo	6	4	13	27	45	16
Knox City	5	5	13	16	42	15
Alb Turk Gucu	5	4	14	17	37	14

FRANKSTON PINES 0 SPRINGVALE CITY at Monsterey Reserve, Saturday.

FRANKSTON PINES: Janssen 7, Cumming 7 (R. Nelson 70th), Cullen 6, Lawson 6, Thurlow 6, Cooke 6, Watson 7, Ross 7, Miller 6, Webster 6, Thomas 6, Coach: Danny McMinnes.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Perry Mur 8, Vogel 7, Bentley 8, Luyten 7, Fitzpatrick 6, K. Humble 6 (Simon 80th), Bannan 7, Matthews 6, Luca 6, D'Amico 8, van Dinteren 6, Coach: Bobby McLachlan.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Bentley (SI), 2. Perry Mur (SI), 1. Ross (FP).

ST ALBANS DINAMO 1 (Morovic penalty 17th) WESTERN SUBURBS 1 (McGuinness 90th) at Churchill Reserve, Saturday.

1607 ST ALBANS DINAMO: Debeljuh 8, Ramljak 7, Kustura 6, S. Grbic 7, Brkijacic 9, Pozar 8, M. Bozic 6, Ratnovic 7, Dezic 9, Morovic 6, Kuna 6 (inj. Kuzman 65th), Coach: Tony Vrzina.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Apostolides 7, Beattie 7, Dimovski 7, Esposto 7, Howe 7, Kakaniotis 7, Stenson 7, Hamer 7, K. Coyle 6 (Palmaricotti 75th), Tuck 8, McGuinness 9, Coach: Jimmy Conditt.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Brkijacic (St. A.), 2. Dezic (St. A.), 1. Tuck (WS).

FAWKNER 2 (Palinkas 61st, Cozzella 80th) THOMASTOWN 0 at Smith Reserve, Sunday.

FAWKNER: Terzini 7, Schiano 6, Fatore 8, Macleod 8, Hobson 8, Mancinelli 7 (sent off 75th), Angele 8, Quigley 9, Di Cecco 9, Palinkas 9, Cozzella 7, Coach: Peter Boyle.

THOMASTOWN: Raponi 8, Di Berardino 7, Cosentino 7 (Alizzi 75th), Arcoraci 8, Carfora 7, Latic 6, B. Coyle 9, Dallas 8, Flaherty 6, Beller 6, Tormo 6 (N. Constantinou 80th), Coach: Joe Wilson.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Quigley (Fawk), 2. Di Cecco (Fawk), 1. Palinkas (Fawk).

CROYDON 3 (French penalty 18th, McDonald 27th, 52nd) BOX HILL 1 (Azopardi 24th) at Croydon Park, Sunday.

CROYDON: Whiteside 7, Taylor 8, Brown 7, Bates 8, O'Reilly 7, Beech 7, McDonald 9 (inj. Thomson 86th), Kerr 8, Livingstone 8, French 7, Brogan 8, Coach: Peter Ollerton.

BOX HILL: Harrison 7, McPhee 4, McMillan 6, Davidson 5, A. Rodhouse 5, Rodhouse 5, Hughes 7, Hennessy 6, Azopardi 5 (Keenan 61st), A. Humble 5, Verechia 7, Coach: Tom Newbiggin (caretaker).

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. McDonald (C), 2. Livingstone (C), 1. Brogan (C).

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA 1 (Stewart 75th) KNOX CITY 2 (Wild 63rd, Phillips 71st) at Jubilee Park, Sunday.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA: Kasimas 7, Haupt 6, Corke 5, Murray 5, Wemyss 6 (Nyholt 65th), M. Bakker 5, Shannon 5, Burton 7, Keble 5, Storm 6, Stewart 7, Coach: Ted McKeown.

KNOX CITY: McTurk 7, Loy 5, Saizi 6, Bissinger 7, Tunstall 6, Byrne 6, Pate 6, Roddis 7, Healey 8, Underwood 6, Wild 6, Phillips 7, Coach: Duncan Smith.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Healey (Knox), 2. Burton (RW), 1. McTurk (Knox).

NORTHCOTE 0 MORWELL FALCONS 0 at John Cain Reserve, Sunday.

NORTHCOTE: Giannopoulos 7, Kourmenos 7, Cutler 8, Bozakis 8, J. Constantinou 7, Toro 6, Patinotis 8, Wilson 7, Filippis 5 (Artis 88th).

MORWELL FALCONS: Blasby 7, Bingham 9, Brynolls 7, Tutill 8, Train 8, McGowan 5, Maclean 8, Moore 5, Cassar 7, Athersych 5, Stirton 5 (O'Callaghan 80th), Coach: Jimmy Dunne.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Bingham (MF), 2. Bozakis (North), 1. Train (MF).

POLONIA 1 (Warszawski 40th) ALBION TURK GUCU 0 at Raleigh Reserve, Sunday.

POLONIA: Dziulakowski 7, Liparski 7, Innes 8, Avian 7, Little 8, De-luca 6, Gregoruk 6, Stojcievski 6, Kotaric 7, Auid 7, Warszawski 7, Coach: Eddie Reid.

ALBION TURK GUCU: W. Bryden 7, Reilly 7, Jovicic 5, Gilmour 8, Douglas 6, Eraltay 5, T. Latif 5, Picione 6, Bennett 5, Price 5, Patsman 5, Coach: Tommy Traynor.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Innes (Pol), 2. Gilmour (Albion), 1. Little (Pol).

SCHIPANO BEST PLAYER AWARD

Schipano Home Furnishers are sponsoring our 1985 State League Player of the Year award. The winner receives \$1,000 worth of furniture of his choice.

Leading votegetters:
28 — Webster (Pines),
26 — Cosentino (Thomastown),
23 — Adams (Springvale),
20 — Hughes (Box Hill),
Livingstone (Croydon),
Culina (Dinamo),
19 — Bissinger (Knox),
17 — MacLean (Morwell),
16 — Gibson (Polonia).

15 — Burton (Wilhelmina),
14 — Wilson (Northcote),
13 — Cosentino (Suburbs), Haupt (Wilhelmina),
13 — Beech (Croydon),
Quigley, Boyle (Fawkner),
Cooke (Pines),
12 — Douglas (Albion),
Patinotis (Northcote),
Little (Polonia), Brkijacic (Dinamo), Dimovski (Suburbs),
11 — Toro (Northcote),
Nelson (Springvale).

McDONALD SEALS IT

By MICK MITTEN

Croydon 3 Box Hill 1

Scorers: French penalty 18th, McDonald 27th, 52nd (C); Azopardi 24th (BH).

Venue: Croydon Park.

The clash between Andy Humble and Jim O'Reilly in the first 15 seconds apparently was a hangover from the match at Wembley Park between these sides earlier this year. Humble was booked and the scene was set for a frantic opening half hour, with Croydon striving to maintain its championship momentum and Box Hill attempting to stake a title claim of its own.

Despite many bookings, referee Mike Gatt started and finished this bruising contest surrounded by 22 players, a phenomenon which surprised most observers given the ferocity of the opening.

O'Reilly received treatment after his clash with Humble and from the ensuing free kick, Graham French got clear and slung the ball home, only to have the goal disallowed.

In the 7th minute, Box Hill goalie Robert Harrison was forced to make a fine save to deny Dave Brogan. The chance had been created after good work by Croydon midfielder Matt McDonald, the ex-Box Hill player.

Croydon opened its account in the 18th minute. Brogan had got clear and pushed the ball past Harrison, who then pulled down the Croydon striker. The irony of the situation was that Brogan had pushed the ball onto an angle that would have made scoring just about impossible. French strode up to the penalty spot and his low

Diamataris strikes!

NUNAWADING CITY 0 RICHMOND 3 (Politis 24th, 43rd, Gourlias 87th). Victorian First Division match at Mahoneys Reserve, Saturday.

NUNAWADING CITY: Madjer, Brown, Deane, Rammer, Moyle (sent off 75th), Mullett, J. Greenwood, Nellies, Roggero (Papas 85th), Middlemast, Poto.

RICHMOND: Turudis, Robertson, Warner, Kupinic, Gooch, Davidson, McDough (Kotaridis 82nd), Gourlias, Tattos, G. Greenwood, Politis.

Nunawading created enough opportunities in the first 20 minutes to sew up the game but was made to pay for missed chances and Richmond finished up a convincing winner.

In the 24th minute, a right wing corner hit a forward on the back and hit the post. Politis had the simple job of scoring from the rebound.

The lead was increased just before the break when a cross from Politis slipped through Madjer's hands and although Remmers hooked the ball clear, the linesman flagged for a goal.

The number of yellow cards given by the referee grew and culminated with Moyle being sent off for a tackle after previously being cautioned for dissent.

With the extra man up front, it was no surprise when Richmond went further ahead with only three minutes to go, courtesy of a Gourlias shot.

WAVERLEY CITY 2 (Drouedge 40th, Crompton 80th) ALTONA CITY 0, Victorian Second Division match at Gardiners Creek Reserve, Saturday.

WAVERLEY CITY: Dorch-Coulter, Patterson, Dixon, Wilson-Grimwade, Wilcocks, Budd (inj. Salvatore 80th).

ALTONA CITY: Waverley City gained a measure of revenge against Altona City with a slogging 2-0 victory at Gardiners Creek Reserve. The home side had not forgotten its visit to Kim

Port Melbourne 1 (Diamataris 70th) PRAHRAN SLAVIA (Gonzales 60th), Victorian Third Division match at Murphy Reserve, Port Melbourne, Saturday.

PT MELB: Pasakos, Fofias,

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SELECTIONS

VICTORIAN DIVISION ONE
Saturday: ODEVENTON v Brancaster, Mel-borne v SUNDURY, NTH DANDENONG v New Park Rangers, CAULFIELD CITY v Moorland, Altona City v NUNAWADING CITY.
Sunday: BRIDGEMANS v Werribee, Melbourne v RICHMOND.

DIVISION TWO
Saturday: ELTHAM v SANDRINGHAM, Royal Richmond v SM MORRILLACH, Hampton Ranges v STN GABLES, NTH GEELENG v Dandenong City, Bell Park v Waverley City, Richmond v ALTONA CITY, Kallor Island v Colbury v Ringwood United (draw).

DIVISION THREE
PORT MELBOURNE v Karingal, Bullen v Geelong (draw), ESSENDON CITY v Corio, Springvale Utd v Yalland (draw), Yarrville v Moorabool (draw), PRAHRAN CITY v Moorabool City, PRAHRAN v Haidhofers Bandora.

DIVISION FOUR
Saturday: ROSANNA v Boro, Cithon Hill v FENTREBY GULLY, Ballarat v Lalar Utd, NOL, LAND PARK v Kynabrough, SURINA v Moorabool, East Brunswick v Langwarrin (draw), BRIGHTON v Adelaide.

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE
Saturday: EAST GEELENG v Malvern City, Chelsea v CENTRAL CITY, Werrin v Clayton Island, Altona v WEST BRUNSWICK, Chelsea v WILMINGTON (draw), PASCOE VAL v Hawthorn.

DIVISION TWO
Saturday: Melton v BERWICK CITY, SEA-FORD UTD v Altona Utd, Inverloch City v 5th Dandenong (draw), UTD v MELBOURNE, 5th Yarra, Nunningwood Utd v GEELENG Utd, GINGELEY Utd v Monash Utd.

DIVISION THREE
Saturday: CRANBURY v Mitcham, Mon-bell v BRUNSWICK CITY, Burwood United v WESTALL GLENVIEW v Lyndale United, ASCOT VALE CITY v Florry City, PARMORE v Kensington United.

DIVISION FOUR| Saturday: Murgrove v BALACALVA, PORT UNITED v Meadow Park, ST KILDA v Carran United, Broom United v WEST MEADOWS, Lark v WEST UNITED, Carinda/Kooyong v MELBOURNE UNITED, South Springvale v RICHMOND UNITED. |

Canterbury almost there!

Skypack state league standings

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CANTERBURY	13	5	3	46	23	31
FAIRY MEADOW	13	4	4	25	13	30
SUTHERLAND	10	7	4	38	20	27
MELITA EAGLES	11	4	6	36	20	26
Ku-Ring-Gai	8	8	5	27	21	24
Rockdale Ilinden	8	6	7	27	19	22
Avala	7	7	7	24	22	21
Manly	4	9	8	18	25	17
Polonia	7	3	11	33	47	17
Uruguayan	3	8	10	16	30	14
Narrabeen	2	9	10	15	37	13
Bankstown	2	6	13	15	44	10

TOP SCORERS

- 12 — Stefan Janic (Polonia)
 11 — Don Allan (ME)
 10 — Ross Brown (RI)
 9 — Borges (CM), Pop (P)
 8 — Walker (ME)
 7 — Dounis, Silva, Kirwan (CM), Beggs (S), Hastie (U)

THIS WEEK'S FINAL ROUND

Sunday, At Jensen Park: BANKSTOWN v FAIRY MEADOW; At Mona Park: URUGUAY v MANLY; At Knights Park: AVALA v KURINGAI; At Chopin Park: POLONIA v ROCKDALE; At Narrabeen, NARRABEEN v CANTERBURY; At Melita Stadium: MELITA v SUTHERLAND

FAIRY MEADOW 0 URUGUAY 1 (Hasty Pen 6th) at Carrimal.

FAIRY MEADOW: Young 7 — White 7, Berringer 7, Jones 8, Morland 9 — Piel 6 (Montecchi 7th), Bradley 6 (Fleming 6th), Mowbray 6, Richardson 7 — Fontana 6, Gerald 6.
 URUGUAY: Tabernaberi 8 — O'Donnell 7, Hasty 8, Krslovic 7, Piriz 7 — Fernandez 8, Estavillo 8, Benitez 7 — Arbelo 6 (Carrizo 73rd) Benales 7, Botero 7.
 Gogic 6, Etherington 6, Pagano 7 — Holloway 7, J. Barker 7, G. Williamson 6.

CANTERBURY 2 (Hantzis 49th, Kalogeros 50th) MELITA EAGLES 0 at Arlington.

CANTERBURY: Hummel 7 — Karaspiros 8, Radman 8, Pena 8, Hantzis 9 — Hormazabal 7, Anagnostopoulos 7, Borges 9 — Kalogeros 7, Ortega 6 (Etimides 66th), Kirwan 8.

MELITA EAGLES: Mullen 5 — Laine 6, Wilson 7, McCoy 6, McAusland 6 (sent off 72nd) — Vial 6, Farrugia 8, Dolton 6 — Walker 6, Griffiths 8, Hersman 6.

MANLY 2 (Pagano 10th, J. Barker 65th) AVALA 2 (Anderson 25th, Jeffry 63rd) at Cromer.

MANLY: T. Barker 6 — Dennis 6, J. Dick 7, Pearce 7, S. Dick 6 — Gogic 6, Ethington 6, Pagano 7 — Holloway 7, J. Barker 7, G. Williamson 6.

AVALA: Thurlow 7 — Barnett 6, Dobson 7, Lembray 7, Pratt 6 — Divani 6, Brunetta 6, Coates 7 — Anderson 6, Jeffry 7, Carney 7.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN 2 (Risteovski 21st, D. Wilson 72nd, NARRABEEN 1 (Sandrine 15th) at Hurstville.

ILINDEN: Karaspiros 7 — Skokum 7, Pilovski 8, D. Wilson 8, Forester 7 — J. Wilson 7, Nastoski 8, Slavski 8, Palegano 6, (Tilmanoff 71st) — Brown 5, Risteovski 7.

NARRABEEN: P. Dean 7 — Hanley 7, D. Watt 8, Parfitt 6, Jones 6 — Griffin 6, Collings 6, A. Dean 7, Nacinovic 5 — Van Helden 5, Sandrine 7.

BANKSTOWN 1 (Hassan 80th) SUTHERLAND 1 (Beggs 65th) at Jensen Park.

BANKSTOWN: S. Zan 7 — Heston, Meerabai, Lahoud, Rajab — Green, Vincent, Ageron — Anagnostopoulos, Hosselini, Hassan.

SUTHERLAND: Burnmore 7 — Schumann 7, DelForno 7, Burrows 7, Headford 6 — Meades 6, Webber 7, Harrington 7, Rogers 6 — Beggs 6, Hall 5.

KURINGAI 2 (Bass 10th, 24th) POLONIA 2 (Janic 43rd Pen, 76th) at Parklands.

KURINGAI: Lacey 7 — Keven 6, Bertram 8, Watson 8, Goldsworthy 8 — Gulgley 6, Bennett 7, Sutherland 8, Brockbank 8 — Nile 6, Bass 8.

POLONIA: Anderson 8 — Chou 7, Colluso 6, Vujinovic 7, Gekkie 6 — Dzy 7, Sobczyk 8, Mahamah 7, Kodar 6 — Janic 7, Bratkovic 5.

With one round of the State League remaining, it now is clear that Fairy Meadow has choked on the line with Canterbury about to break the tape first this week when it meets Narrabeen at Narrabeen Sports Centre.

Fairy Meadow suffered its third defeat in six games and with only two wins in the last seven outings has slipped to second place. The side from the South Coast lost to a much improved Uruguayan at Cromer last week and could have lost by an even greater margin had a goal by Botero been allowed.

As it was, a penalty by Hasty after only six minutes was sufficient to separate the sides.

At Canterbury's home ground, Arlington Oval, few could guarantee before the match that the Berries could upset Melita. And after the first 45 minutes it looked as if Melita would swamp Canterbury. But Melita failed to apply itself during the second period and Canterbury won through goals by Hantzis and Kalogeros.

Bankstown 1 Sutherland 1

At Jensen Park
 Scorers: Beggs 55th, Hassan 80th

Bankstown and Sutherland shared the spoils at Jensen Park much to the displeasure of Sutherland's Johny Lavin. Sutherland always looked the superior and faster team but never was in control of its shooting boots.

Jimmy Webber missed a couple, Mark Harrington hit the post from point blank range, Peter Beggs also missed as well as Meades.

It was Sutherland's afternoon of benevolence, almost as bad as the previous week when Sutherland gave away its biggest chance of the season to catch up with Meadow by losing to Canterbury.

This time it was even worse. Bankstown, already relegated, played for its pride.

However, the benevolent boys from Sutherland laid it on for the home side, but to no avail.

Bankstown managed only one point from this match, hardly sufficient to get close enough to Narrabeen or Uruguayan in search of escape.

Manly Warr 2 Avala 2

At Cromer Park
 Scorers: Pagano 10th, J. Barker 65th, Anderson 25th, Jeffry 63rd.

This was one of the most exciting matches yet at Cromer Park in 1985. With neither club vying for anything but healthy respect it was time to open up and enjoy this game of football.

Both sides stormed forward with little regard for defence. In fact, Richard Alagich, the coach of Manly had come up with an innovative idea. Before the match he had greeted his players in the dressing room then left. His parting words were: "At this time I find it necessary to let you decide how to play. I leave you to it and I hope that you enjoy yourself."

Mr Alagich might have come up with a different idea of motivating his players but the end product was that both sets of players enjoyed this encounter and showed a lot of aggression. And for the first time this year Glen Jeffry showed the kind of aggression deman-

ded of him by Dalglish at the start of the season. He scored a goal and dealt menacing throughout.

Pagano headed Manly into the lead almost from the start but Avala came back through Anderson in the 25th. A shot by Jeffry was not held by Barker and Anderson chimed in to score.

Avala went ahead through Jeffry in the 63rd. He was almost in an identical position to that of Pagano in the first half to rise high and head past Barker.

Only two minutes later, Manly replied through Barker. He latched onto a partial clearance from Lembray to score.

Rockdale 2 Narrabeen 1

At Hurstville
 Scorers: Risteovski 21st, D. Wilson 72nd, Sandrine 15th.

Gary Sandrine shot Narrabeen into the lead very early suggesting that Narrabeen was in for at least one point.

Jimmy Risteovski played a 1-2 with Palegano's before rounding Narrabeen's fullback to beat Peter Dean for the equaliser in the 21st and set the stage for Ilinden to attack.

Ilinden has shown much improvement in the past few games. Void of hassles over the top four, Ilinden showed its class by moving the ball about and constantly keeping pressure on Peter Dean.

And just when it looked that Narrabeen would get away with yet another draw, Darren Wilson chimed into spoil the plans by scoring Ilinden's winner in the 72nd.

Ilinden, an easy winner over Melita the previous week showed once more that it is going to be a force in the near future. Ross Brown has scored 10 goals this year but has missed many more. He is still third top scorer in the league but had he scored from half of the chances offered here he would have been on top.

Nastoski, Pilovski, Risteovski and Slavski have shown exceptional improvement in the second part of the Premiership and will be the backbone of the side for 1986.

Sime Srinovski, the club's secretary, was very hopeful that some improvements in the playing staff would be sought in the off-season. The club is also discussing the possibility of getting at least one if not two top players from Yugoslavia next year.

Canterbury 2 Melita 0

At Arlington
 Scorers: Ratzes 49th, Kalogeros 50th.

Canterbury has completed a double over Melita Eagles to clear the way for its attempt to win the State League title.

For a team which laboured with only one win in the first six rounds any idea of winning State League was definitely not on. However, since then Canterbury has gone 15 matches without a loss, winning 12 games along the way.

27 out of a 30 possible points is an incredible success story!

NSW State League
 with ALEX VESIC



● Fairy Meadow's Maurizio Montecchi — came on in the 70th minute for Richard Piel but was unable to save his side from slumping to a shock 0-1 defeat at the hands of Uruguay.

been last time the two sides met, would be two players Blanco would be looking to in search of success.

Canterbury, regarded by most as an outside chance to reach the top four, is riding high. Its strength is at the back, with Hummel, Radman, Hantzis, Pena and Karaspiros.

Nelio Borges is the real star of this side. His skills, unparalleled in the National League, came to the fore this year giving Canterbury that much needed edge.

So once again Blanco is in the news — this time as a winner.

Well, almost, with just one game to go.

"We must get at least a point this Sunday and I want my players to treat this match as the most important in the club's history, not as a walk-over," said Franco, commenting on Canterbury's clash with Narrabeen.

Kuringai 2 Polonia 2

At Parklands
 Scorers: Bass 10th, 24th, Janic 43rd Pen, 76th

Stefan Janic was Polonia's hero again as he slotted two goals past Lacey to give his side yet another point and a chance to overcome the Sea Eagles in the fight for eighth spot on the league ladder.

At the same time, Janic has taken the lead as the top scorer in State League after the only Saturday fixture of the 21st round. His first goal came at the most opportune time for the visitors. Down 0-2 and starting at their first loss in six rounds, Polonia struck in the 43rd. A cross from the right eluded most but the unfortunate Craig Bass. He stuck his arm out and struck the ball as it flew across the penalty area and referee Peter Rampey pointed to the spot.

Janic converted and Polonia went in at the break a goal down.

Earlier, Craig Bass was devastating, scoring two goals, the first in the 10th minute. Lee Watson found Brockbank and a cross by the agile midfielder found Bass heading past Anderson.

In the 24th, Lee Sutherland found Bennett who quickly slipped it to Bass and this time an accurate right footer saw Anderson beaten again.

Both sides missed sinners during the first and then again during the second before Polonia scored its equaliser.

The speed of Janic and confusion in Kuringai's defence saw the Albion youngster break through to face Lacey. The Kuringai keeper could do little to stop Janic and scores were level.

Grand opening at Moreland

Moreland officially opens its new clubrooms at Campbell Reserve, Coburg on September 8 and all former Moreland players are invited to the event.

The Mayor of Coburg will be the guest of honor and the official party and special guests will arrive at the ground at 1.30pm for lunch and the opening ceremony. Moreland is one of the oldest clubs in Victoria. It was formed in 1902, mainly by British migrants, and has been at Campbell Reserve for over 50 years. Moreland was a founder member of the Victorian State League and was champion of the Premier Division in 1936, 37, 41, 42 and 1948. The club also won the Deocharty Cup in 1941, 45, 50 and 1987.

Moreland's patron, Eric Heath, is vice president of the VSF.

Anyone interested in further details concerning the official opening of the new clubrooms should contact Moreland president Bobby Murdoch on 336 1471.

WANTED: Referees

Any person interested in becoming a referee should contact

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EXIT

U/15 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE HELD AT: THE OLYMPIAN, TRARALGON, VICTORIA



Hail Hellas kids!

South Melbourne Hellas under 12's fly to Sydney on Saturday night and over the coming week will take on teams from Marconi, Sydney Croatia, APIA Leichhardt and Earlwood.

Coach John Kostopoulos, who plays with Victorian Third Division club Port Melbourne and is one of the favorites to take out the league's best and fairest award, must have one of the most lethal forward lines in the Victorian junior leagues.

His three forwards have scored 103 goals this season as the team clinched the championship and is set for a great double when it meets Preston Macedonia on September 14 in the final of the JLMC Under 12 Cup.

Hellas fans will be pleased to learn that the son of one of their all-time greats is having an outstanding season with the under-12's. Lachlan Armstrong, whose father Jim was renowned as a goalscorer, scored his 50th goal of the season two weeks ago against South Parkmore.

The Hellas under-12's have scored 147 goals in league and cup games this season and conceded just 1.

● **PICTURED:** South Melbourne Hellas under 12's. Back row: John Kostopoulos (coach), Peter Kyrkylis, Peter Chetellis, Jim Karakyriakos, Michael Kouris, Mina Teleniatou, Spiros Karnezis, Michael Valkanis. Front: Chris Kringoudis, Arthur Kalanzakos, Liam Morrey, Nick Panagiotakopoulos, Lachlan Armstrong, Ari Dallas, Bill Angiropoulos. Missing: Jim Kostopoulos.



Betty Hoar Q'land girls defend title

● South Queensland will fight desperately to hold its title in the national women's championships at Wembley Park, Box Hill (Vic).

The round robin series will be played from today (Wednesday) to Friday, September 6 with all States and territories competing.

The Queenslanders almost unbeatable combination has been coach Fred Robins and captain and midfield general Susan Monteath.

Home side Victoria will field three current internationals in Jane Oakley, Tracey Singleton and goalkeeper Jones.

● Meanwhile, Victorian Betty Hoar has been appointed manager of the Australian team, and she aims to see the national team do well in the Oceania tournament in New Zealand next March.

● Draw for the national titles:

Israelis beaten

● Israel commenced its European tour in unconvincing style. First up opponent, Hamping, an amateur team, should have been disposed of easily, but instead provided many moments of embarrassment before succumbing 6-2. Eli Ohana (4) and Roni Rosenthal (2) scored the Israeli goals.

A few days later, Israel met part-time professionals SpVgg Unterhaching of the Bavarian Regional League (roughly equivalent to the English Third Division) and lost 0-21.

The originally planned English leg of the tour has been abandoned, as no worthwhile fixtures could be arranged. Instead, the team is to train in Holland.

● The Qatari federation has dismissed Brazilian Dino Sami as national team coach after it only finished fourth in the re-

AROUND THE WORLD

cently completed Arab Cup. Iraq B won the tournament.

● New Zealand's World Cup team continued its preparations with an unconvincing 2-1 win over a Manawatu Invitation Eleven at Palmerston North.

● Former England under-21 international striker Garth Crooks, has moved to West Bromwich Albion from Tottenham Hotspur in a \$200,000 transfer deal.

● Sunderland has acquired Scottish international Frank Gray from Leeds United for a \$60,000 transfer fee.

● Argentinian international Jorge Burruchaga has moved to Nantes (France) from Independiente. The transfer fee was \$300,000.

● The European Football Union (UEFA) has brought forward the finals of its club competitions to give World Cup teams more time to prepare for the finals in Mexico next June.

The European Champions' Cup final will be held on May 7 instead of May 14, the Cup-Winners' Cup final on May 2 rather than May 7, while the two-leg UEFA Cup final will be staged on April 30 and May 6 or 8.

Franz is in it for the fun of it

From STANLEY PARKER

Franz Beckenbauer celebrates his 40th birthday next month with every sign that he will remain in charge of a revitalised West German national team for the next three years.

Within 12 months, Beckenbauer has restored the confidence of a side which sank to the depths of despondency after failing to reach the semi-finals of last year's European Championship in France.

Since he took over from a disgraced Jupp Derwall, West Germany has gone from strength to strength, winning all five World Cup qualifying games to date in its bid to reach the finals in Mexico.

The former Bayern Munich sweeper, who won a record 103 caps, was appointed manager of the West German team as a stop-gap measure.

But his success has pushed the makeshift nature of his position out of the public mind. Few fans can envisage anyone else with the right blend of

firmness and charismatic leadership the job needs.

Now, after constantly evading questions about his future, Beckenbauer has confirmed he is willing to carry on after Mexico.

After talking over his plans with West German Soccer Federation president Hermann Neuberger, he told reporters recently: "I am ready in principle to continue — at least until the 1986 European Championships in West Germany."

Many believe a formal announcement could come in Stockholm on September 25 if West Germany clinches its place in Mexico by beating Sweden.

Beckenbauer, who has often made his future with the team dependent on World Cup qualification, once said: "Failure to qualify will mean I was the wrong man (for the job). In that case I will stop immediately."

But reaching Mexico would not be his only reason for continuing. "The decisive factor is that working with the team is terrific fun," Beckenbauer has also been quoted as saying.



● Franz Beckenbauer

KICK OFF TIMES	WED 28/9	THUR 29/9	FRI 30/9	SAT 31/9	SUN 1/10	MON 2/10	TUE 3/10	WED 4/10	THUR 5/10	FRI 6/10
10.00	TAS-NT	NT-WA	SO-VIC	SA-NT	TAS-NSW		VIC-ACT	NSW-WA	ACT-SQ	WA-SA
SCORE										
11.30	NSW-ACT	SA-SQ	TAS-NSW	SQ-TAS	ACT-SA		NSW-WA	VIC-NSW	NSW-VIC	NT-NSW
SCORE										
1.00	SO-NSW	ACT-TAS	NSW-SA	VIC-WA	NT-VIC		SA-NSW	ACT-NT	WA-TAS	NSW-SQ
SCORE										
2.30	VIC-SA	NSW-NSW	WA-ACT	NSW-ACT	SO-WA		SQ-NT	SA-TAS	NT-NSW	TAS-VIC
SCORE										
BYE	WA	VIC	NT	NSW	NSW		TAS	SQ	SA	ACT

La Juventus e' tornata ad essere la Juventus come ai tempi belli

La Juventus di Melbourne e' nella finalissima del girone meridionale della Lega Nazionale dopo aver battuto parentemente l'Heidelberg (2-0) e il South Melbourne Hellas (1-0) e domenica prossima affrontera' percio' la vincente dell'incontro di questa sera, fra il Preston e l'Hellas, per il diritto di battersi con la squadra vincente della finalissima del girone settentrionale per il titolo di "Campione d'Australia".

Il fatto e' eccezionale per se stesso, ma assume un tono particolarmente esaltante, quasi di insperata rivincita, alla luce della storia recente del club bianconero.

Quando gli undici giocatori bianconeri sono usciti dal campo domenica sera non avevano semplicemente battuto la squadra campione d'Australia: avevano cancellato quasi quindici anni di mediocrita', di umiliazioni piu' o meno scottanti, di aver dimostrato che ormai il club era uscito definitivamente dalla lunga serie di paralizzanti problemi finanziari e paurosi sbandamenti amministrativi che piu' di una volta avevano minacciato la sua sopravvivenza.

La Juventus domenica scorsa e' tornata ad essere la Juventus! Sembrava proprio che gli ultimi (lungissimi) quindici anni non erano mai esistiti. L'Olympic Park straripante di folla come ai bei tempi; il grido di "Juve! Juve!" che punteggiava le fasi salienti della partita con lo stesso tono di sicurezza e di convinzione di quando "Juventus" a Melbourne era sinonimo di strapotenza, di grandezza, di primi della classe!

Tifosi vecchi e nuovi hanno finalmente respirato a pieni polmoni l'aria di trionfo; hanno goduto la pienezza dell'ammirazione degli sportivi greci, macedoni e di altre nazionalita' che apertamente o velatamente li consideravano "i privilegiati, i fortunati" come negli anni in cui la Juventus dettava legge.

Il trionfo di domenica sera, come i fedelissimi sanno anche troppo bene, non e' avvenuto per miracolo o dalla mattina alla

sera. Ha richiesto molto tempo, molti sacrifici, molto lavoro di molte persone. Ma siamo sicuri di non fare torto a nessuno di quelli che vi hanno contribuito in maniera, in forma ed in tempi diversi dicendo che a questo trionfo e' principalmente legato il nome di Tony Schiavello, l'attuale presidente bianconero.

Il suo entusiasmo, la sua caparbita', il suo ottimismo a tutti i costi, la sua ferrea volonta' di vedere una squadra vincente e di assumersi la responsabilita' di decisioni rischiose, hanno fatto la differenza fra un buon presidente di una buona squadra e l'eccezionale presidente di una squadra eccezionale.

Percio', a nome dell'intera tifoseria bianconera e a nome di tutte le migliaia di italiani che pur non seguendo la squadra da vicino ne godono ugualmente dei trionfi per quel senso di inestinguibile orgoglio nazionale, vogliamo esprimere a Tony Schiavello (e a tutta la sua famiglia che ha abbracciato la causa juventina con altrettanto ardore) la gratitudine piu' profonda ed il ringraziamento piu' sincero per aver portato a termine questa insperata impresa di rimettere la Juventus all'apice del calcio Australiano.

E non stiamo cantando vittoria prima del tempo! Le prossime partite di questo torneo finale potranno essere coronate dal successo come potranno anche non esserlo perche' tutti sappiamo che la palla e' rotonda. Il fatto importante e' che la Juventus si batteva per i massimi allori del calcio nazionale, la vittoria piu' importante

e che piu' esprime la ritrovata solidita' di squadra e dell'amministrazione del club e' appunto quella completata domenica scorsa dopo il campionato e dopo il torneo eliminatorio. Da oggi in poi il resto e' solo un di piu' che verra' assegnato dalla dea bendata, spesso molto capricciosa.

Passando ad alcune considerazioni sulle due partite della settimana scorsa, dobbiamo rilevare che le due vittorie della Juventus sono state conquistate grazie soprattutto a brillanti prestazioni di assieme e a ferrea disciplina in campo.

Sia contro l'Heidelberg che contro l'Hellas si e' vista una Juventus che giocava come un solo uomo, come un'orchestra affiatissima in cui ogni strumento fa la sua parte, dai tamburi ai violini. Pochi solisti, pochi acuti ma nessuna stonatura; percio' un'armonia completa e vincente.

Il reparto difensivo e' stato il classico baluardo isormontabile che ha assorbito tutta la pressione iniziale degli attacchi avversari fino a stremarli; il centrocampo ha fatto da difesa avanzata ed attacco arretrato; gli avanti hanno pazientemente lavorato ai fianchi delle difese avversarie fino a smantellarle e piazzare il colpo da KO.

Le due partite e le due esaltanti vittorie hanno pero' esatto il loro prezzo. In quella di mercoledi' l'irresistibile Zinni si e' infortunato nell'azione travolgente della rete che ha sbloccato il risultato contro Heidelberg e ha dovuto fare da spettatore domenica sera al suo posto e' rientrato un Cullen non in perfette condizioni

fisiche che domenica prossima potrebbe risentire ancora di piu' la massiccia maratona di 120 minuti contro l'Hellas.

La durezza dell'incontro contro la squadra greca ha lasciato diversi giocatori con acciacchi vari e, purtroppo, due di loro hanno raggiunto il massimo dei punti di penalizzazione e dovranno osservare giornate di squalifica (Dowie per un turno e Peter Lewis per due turni).

Margaritis dovra' percio' fare a meno di due perni essenziali della sua brillante difesa. Probabilmente egli indietreggera' Petersen nella posizione di libero e dara' il battesimo del fuoco al giovane Durakovic nella posizione di terzino destro; in avanti dovrebbe rientrare Zinni con Cullen che tornera' a centrocampo e Wade al centro del centrocampo in coppia con Miranda.

Solo stasera si sapra' che sara' l'avversaria di domenica per la Juventus; Preston o Hellas avranno il fronte una squadra decimata ma sicuramente decisa a fare suo il titolo di campione del girone meridionale e il diritto a battersi per il titolo nazionale.

Nel girone settentrionale anche il Marconi ha passato il turno dopo una epica battaglia di 120 minuti contro il Sydney Olympic (decisa ai rigori) e questa sera affrontera' il Croatia per il diritto di affrontare il Sydney City nella finalissima di domenica.

Quindi due squadre italiane sono ancora in lizza con ottime probabilita' di successo. Sperare in una finalissima nazionale tutta italiana e' forse sperare un po' troppo?

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

1985 FINALS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

PRELIMINARY FINAL

WEDNESDAY 28th AUGUST (TONIGHT)
at OLYMPIC PARK, MELBOURNE. KICK-OFF 7.30 pm

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS vs PRESTON MAKEDONIA



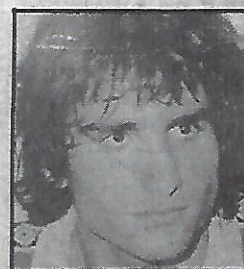
OSCAR CRINO

NORTHERN DIVISION

PRELIMINARY FINAL

WEDNESDAY 28th AUGUST (TONIGHT)
at MARCONI STADIUM, SYDNEY. KICK-OFF 7.30 pm

MARCONI vs SYDNEY CROATIA



JIM PATIKAS

SUNDAY'S GRAND FINALS 1st SEPTEMBER

SOUTHERN DIVISION

at OLYMPIC PARK, MELBOURNE KICK-OFF 3.00 pm

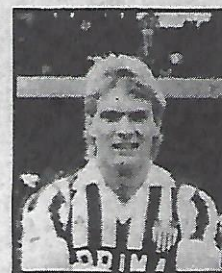
BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS vs WINNER PRELIMINARY FINAL



JOE WATSON

NORTHERN DIVISION

at ST. GEORGE STADIUM, SYDNEY.
KICK-OFF 3.00 pm



JOE SWEENEY

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